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DRAGON FORCE

METRO TALKS TO STARS OF NEW THRILLER {page 35}

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JOE LOFARO/METRO

Looking for answers in deadly crash

Transportation Safety Board in preliminary stages of crash probe Investigators can't say when they will know cause of crash that killed two experienced Ottawa pilots Plane was on last leg of trip back to Ottawa from Caribbean holiday {page 4}

▶ Investigators look over the wreckage of a private plane that crashed in a field on Leiken Drive, a short distance from a Barrhaven subdivision and across the road from the new RCMP headquarters. Co-pilots William Barry Stratton and Jacques Domey were killed in the crash.

Feds urging Canadians to leave Syria now

'We are declaring a voluntary evacuation,' said Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird
More than 5,000 Syrians have been killed

News

What are Canadians Googling?

Search engine releases list of bizarre top queries from across country {page 26}

Sports

Call for action on concussion 'epidemic'

Hockey agent says the league needs to do more to address the problem {page 55}

1 news

Facebook's much-hyped Timeline feature, which promises to turn profiles into scrapbooks, has gone live. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Baby Melinda, one of the smallest infants ever born, is alive and well — and defying the odds. Video at metronews.ca/video

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CONTRIBUTED

▶ Trina Wright's husband Alex Butcher is struggling to stay in Canada after a series of wrong turns in the immigration system led to a deportation order.

A Christmas deportation order

Father of two finding difficulty navigating immigration system gets ordered to exit Canada after living here for 21 years Has less than 3 weeks to leave for Saint Vincent

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

After living in Canada for more than 21 years, an Ottawa man is being given the boot by immigration officials who have ordered him to leave by Jan. 5.

Alex Butcher, 32, is asking for some sympathy and understanding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) so that he can stay in Canada and take care of his two kids aged 15 and 9.

"If they understand it, they would have a heart on me, you know?" said Butcher.

He's been trying to get permanent residency for a number of years, but through a combination of bad advice and family troubles he's been denied. He even applied for refugee status in 2008 but it was removed in March 2011.

He got a letter from CIC last month telling him to leave the country.

Butcher came to Canada from Saint Vincent in 1990 with his siblings when he was 11 to join his parents in Montreal. He said he had a bad relationship with his dad in the early 90s and was taken into foster care.

He lost his job as a cook at a Carleton University restaurant when his work permit expired Nov. 18, and with no current status in Canada, he has less than three weeks to return to Saint Vincent.

Nancy Caron, a CIC spokesperson, said all Butcher had to do was get his wife, Trina Wright, to sponsor him after they got married five years ago in Quebec.

But Wright said the lawyer they consulted with in Montreal, where they used to live, neglected to tell them to do that. Instead, the lawyer advised Butcher to apply for permanent residency on humanitarian grounds, Wright said.

"He's been punished for being not knowledgeable and that's not fair."
TRINA WRIGHT

It was only Tuesday, she said, that an Ottawa lawyer told her that she merely needed to sponsor her husband.

"If I had known all I had to do was sponsor him and save thousands of dollars and stress and heartache, I would have done it a long time ago," said Wright.

"He has no criminal record, he's proven himself more than anything that he's willing to work."

Caron said Butcher had the opportunity to apply for federal court reviews on various immigration decisions, but he discontinued after the first time.

"Everyone has the right to due process, and when they have exhausted all legal avenues we expect them to respect our immigration laws and leave Canada," said Caron.

Butcher is concerned not only about finding a place to live in Saint Vincent, but also leaving his family behind, too.

"Its not a happy Christmas for me," Butcher said.

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Men known as experienced pilots

Ottawa fathers were heading home from a vacation Investigators have theories about what led to crash

JOE LOFARO
and SEAN MCKIBBON
@METRONEWS.CA

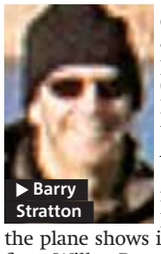
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Workers remove the remains of a small plane in Ottawa Thursday after it crashed Wednesday night, killing both men on board.

Transportation Safety Board (TSB) investigators and Ottawa police are probing a plane crash in Ottawa's south end that killed two men.

Co-pilots William Barry Stratton, 55, and Jacques Domey, in his 60s, were on their way home to Ottawa from Florida when the Cessna 177 Cardinal crashed in a field near the RCMP headquarters in Barrhaven on Wednesday night as it approached Ottawa International Airport.

▶ Jacques Domey



▶ Barry Stratton

The flight plan for the plane shows it took off from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., just after 5 p.m. bound for the Carp Airport.

The airport says an incoming four-seater plane disappeared from the radar on approach for landing around 7:15 p.m. It was found in a field about 45 minutes later.

The crash knocked down several power lines and more than 2,600 customers in the area were without electricity for several hours.

A relative of Domey said the family all wanted to gather together before speaking about the crash.

Stratton, a denturist, and Domey, a retired scientist who once worked at the National Research Council, co-owned the plane with three others.

Both men were married and had children, said Simon Garrett, manager of the Rockcliffe Airport and chief flight instructor at the Rockcliffe Flying Club, where both men were members.

"They were both unique in their own way," said Garret, recalling Domey as extremely intelligent and Stratton as very "details oriented," and eager to own his own plane.

Domey had been a licensed pilot for 30 years and Stratton got his pilot licence in 2003, said Garret.

Both men were very experienced and would often go on long flying trips across country. The trip they were returning from was a mini holiday to the Caribbean, he said.

Garret said the plane had recently been upgraded with new instrumentation and was scheduled to land in Carp where the plane's owners were keeping it in a hangar for the winter. Weather conditions made it unsafe to land in Carp and so the plane redirected to Ottawa International Airport, Garret said.

While he said he has a number of theories as to what might have happened, Garret didn't want to share them and said he would wait for the TSB to conduct its investigation.

"There's so many variables. The weather certainly wasn't very pretty," he said.

A TSB worker on scene Thursday morning said investigators were in the preliminary stages of surveying the plane wreckage and could not specify when they will know the cause of the crash.

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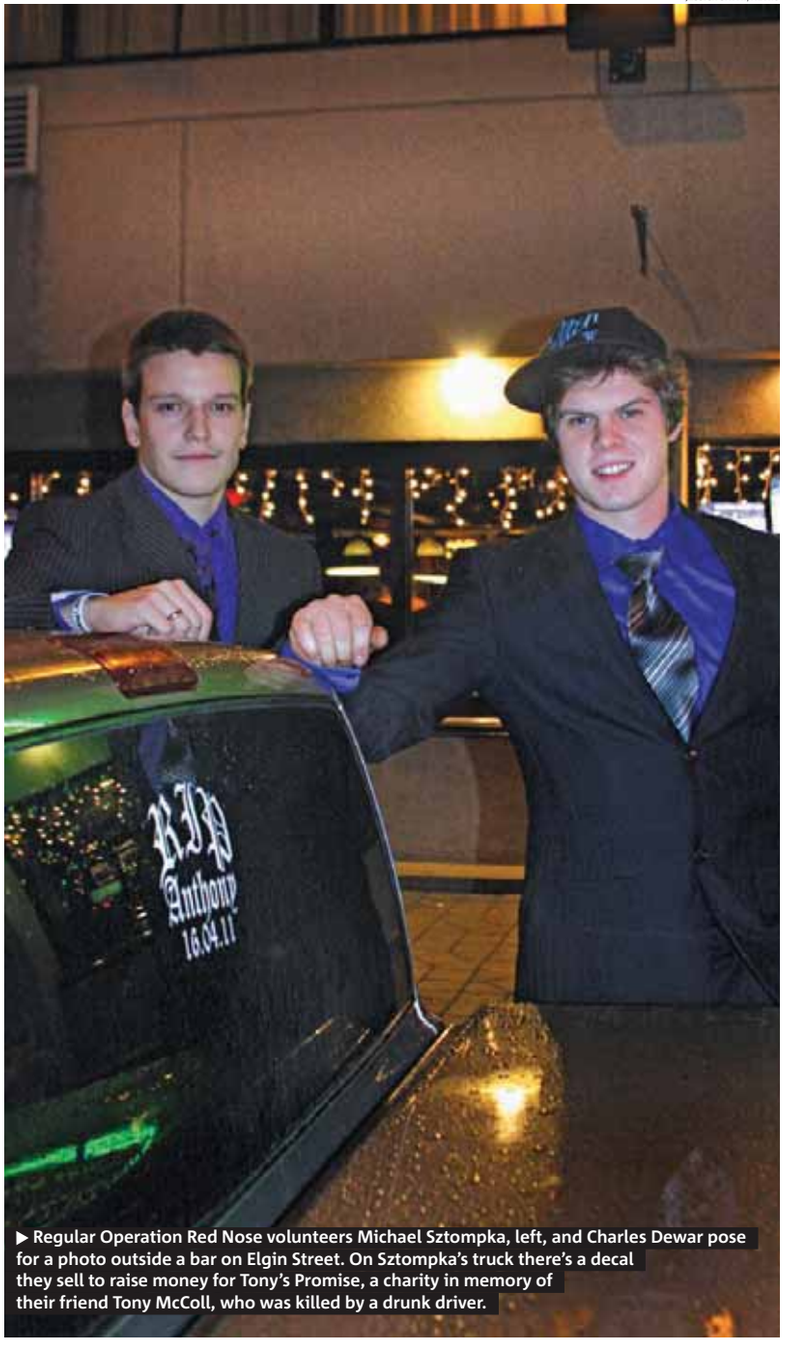

▶ Regular Operation Red Nose volunteers Michael Sztompka, left, and Charles Dewar pose for a photo outside a bar on Elgin Street. On Sztompka's truck there's a decal they sell to raise money for Tony's Promise, a charity in memory of their friend Tony McColl, who was killed by a drunk driver.

Navigating a night of red noses

What I learned while volunteering for an evening with the remarkably fun sober people at Operation Red Nose

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

7:45 PM

I'm early and nervous — mostly that someone will vomit on me or I won't be able to stay up until 4 a.m. driving intoxicated people and their cars home safely.

Ottawa's Operation Red Nose headquarters is a room atop the Boys and Girls Club in Nepean. There are donated snacks, cheerful Christmas lights and board games.

Volunteers arrive. They tell stories that somehow put me at ease: Pot smoke spilling out of a house party, dirty jokes slurred from a backseat, but it's not all funny.

"I've had to clean up messes from what drunk drivers did," says volunteer and former two-truck driver Mark Mills. Towing crumpled vehicles from crash scenes is hard, but when families of the victims would come to the garage to see the wrecks it's harder, he says.

"I don't think drunk drivers know the damage they do," he says.

Charles Dewar walks up. He's 21 and wearing a suit.

"Last month a buddy thought it would be funny to put on a suit and get bombed on Saturdays," he says, explaining how his group's "suit-up Saturdays" tradition was born.

He's been driving for Operation Red Nose all month. He drinks, but doesn't ever drink and drive.

"I had a buddy die from a drunk driver," he says.

His buddy, Anthony McColl, was sober and driving friends home from a party last spring when another driver slammed head-on into his car. McColl died, his friends were injured. The drunk driver also died. Dewar and his friends launched Tony's Promise, a promise to never drive drunk.

10:30 PM

My first call is to a house near Elgin Street.

Our escort driver takes us there in a car festooned with foam reindeer antlers and a red nose. I, the navigator, and the client driver get into the client's car – with the giggly civil servants we're taking to their homes in Aylmer.

They're not too drunk, so our driver tells me not to worry about navigating.

I look out the window as we go round and round a roundabout in a cookie-cutter subdivision while confused giggles come from the back seat. I realize I should keep an eye on my GPS-enabled phone.

12:50 AM

One call follows another. Then a call to all teams comes over the radios. We're turning clients away because there are 15 waiting, and it would take our nine teams more than two hours to get to anyone else who calls.

I think about a story coordinator Dave van Vlaanderen told the group earlier. When he had to turn a client away the night before, she said, sounding wasted, she'd nap for an hour and then drive home. He had to call police to stop her.

2:50 AM

Our last call is for two Ottawa police officers at a Christmas party.

One says with so many options for a safe ride home, there's no excuse for drinking and driving, and then enthusiastically chatters about his dogs all the way home.

Some clients, like the police officers, wouldn't likely drive drunk if they couldn't get a ride from Red Nose, but the others worry me. Would they just think they're fine, or lucky, and it's too cold to walk or bus, or too expensive to cab? I hope they'd call us and I hope there are enough volunteer teams to pick them all up.

4:45 AM

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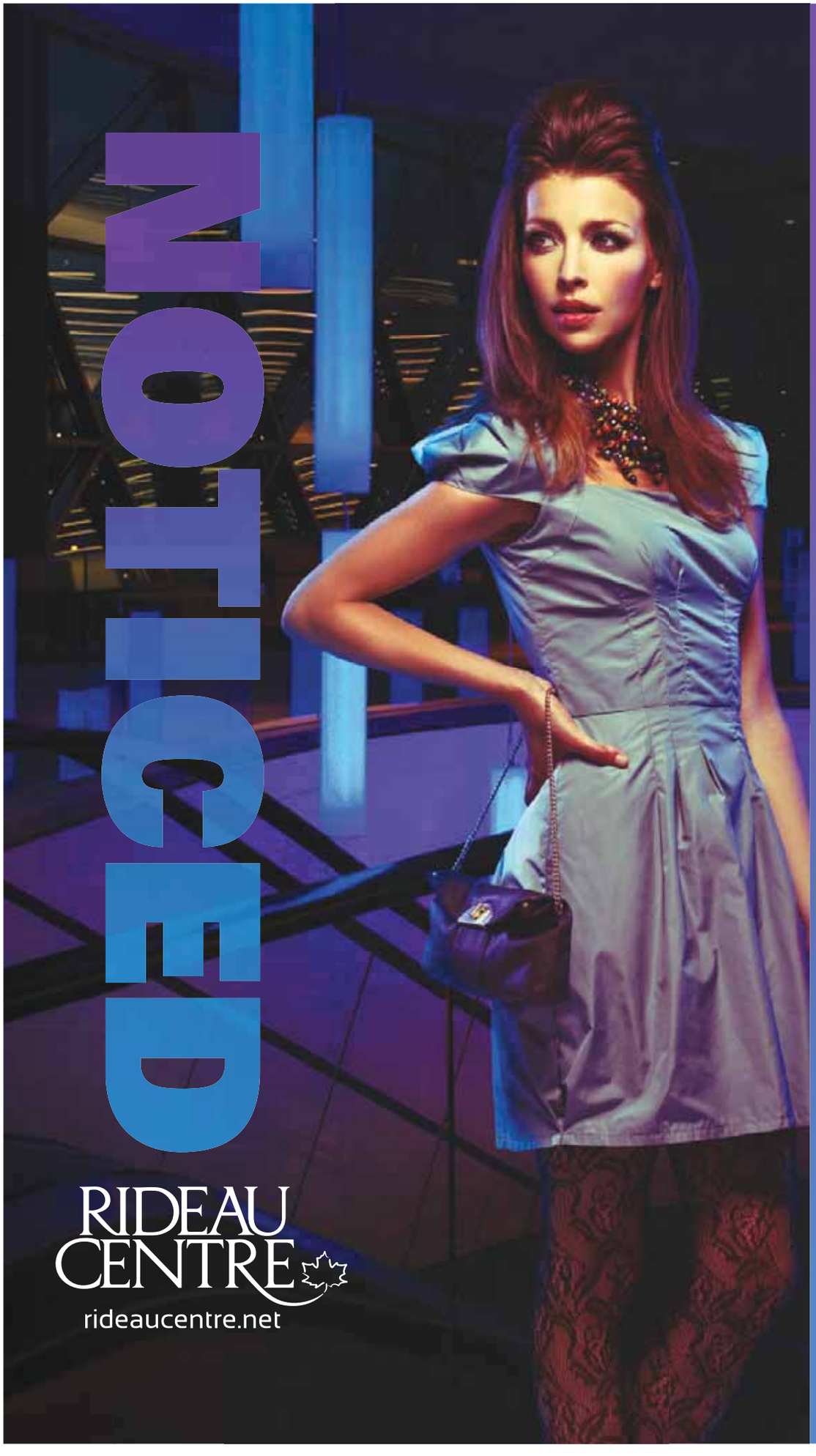

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Baird to Canadians in Syria: Leave now

- Consular services provided to those wishing to leave
- Sanctions to impact air transport to and from Syria

The federal government is again urging Canadians to get out of Syria while they still can.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says it is becoming increasingly difficult for Canadian diplomats and officials to do their jobs under restrictions imposed by President Bashar Assad.

"We are declaring a voluntary evacuation of all Canadians in Syria," Baird said. "Our embassy in Damascus is also available to assist Canadians in Syria, as well as their spouses and their dependent children with the needed travel documents, visas, between now and Jan. 14, 2012."

More than 5,000 Syrian citizens have been killed and "thousands and thousands and thousands" more injured in the country's popular uprising against Assad's authoritarian regime, Baird said. Canada and others have imposed tough sanctions on the country but Assad has steadfastly refused to relinquish power.

Assad's regime "has lost all legitimacy and its abhorrent behaviour will not be tolerated," Baird said, warning Canadians in the country that they will have an increasingly difficult time making travel arrangements as the security situation deteriorates.

"I must warn that, should Canadians stay in Syria, we will not be able to guarantee the current service at our embassy or that commercial options to leave the country will remain available.

"The time to leave Syria is now."

The Obama administration is predicting Assad's downfall. A U.S. State Department official told Congress on Wednesday that Assad's repression may allow him to hang on to power, but only for a short time.

Assad's regime is growing more isolated with the mounting international sanctions to punish his regime for its bloody crackdown mainly on unarmed, peaceful protesters.

Human Rights Watch has issued a report alleging that Syrian military commanders and officials authorized or gave orders for widespread killings, torture, and illegal arrests during the wave of anti-government protests.

Assad's regime has sealed off the country to most outsiders while clinging to its claim that the uprising is the work of foreign extremists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird leaves after delivering a statement regarding the situation in Syria in Ottawa on Thursday.

Syrians plan flash mob in Ottawa

Concerned Syrian Canadians in Ottawa are hoping to raise awareness of the deteriorating situation in the Middle Eastern country by staging a flash mob next Thursday.

A group of about 50 to 60 people will gather at an undisclosed location in the city and freeze on the spot for five minutes, while depicting acts of violence against protesters.

The goal is to raise awareness for non-political people in Ottawa and share images of the nine-month crackdown on protesters.

"The least we can do here in Canada is show people exactly what's going on in Syria."
YAMAN MARWAH, FLASH MOB ORGANIZER

"The problem in Syria is that it's only one media, the Syrian government media," said organizer Yaman Marwah, 18. "The least we can do here in Canada is show people exactly what's going on in Syria."

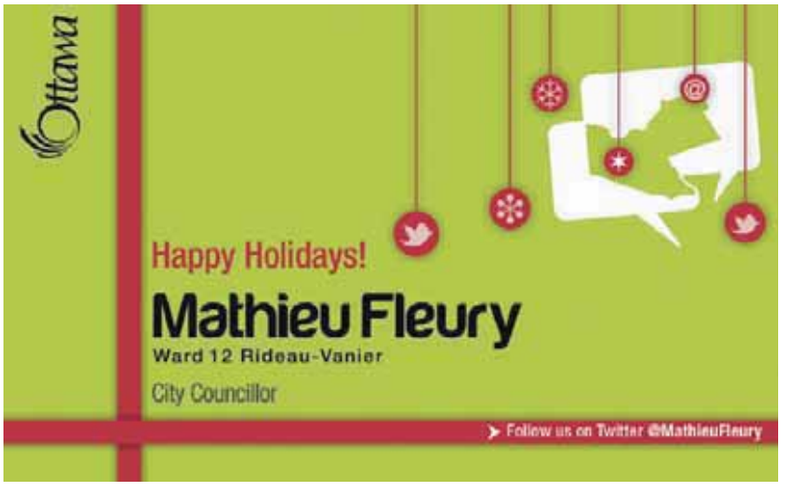
Marwah welcomed the announcement from Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird Thursday calling for all Canadian citizens to leave the country immediately.

"The time to get out is now," Marwah said.

JOE LOFARO

JOE LOFARO/METRO FILE

▶ Yaman Marwah waves Syrian flags at a protest on Sept. 12 in Ottawa.



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Explosion case held over until next spring

Fire-code charge could lead to $100,000 fine for Catholic board

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

The case against the Ottawa Catholic School Board related to an explosion that killed student Eric Leighton last May won't be heard until the spring.

"We are just waiting for the Ontario Fire Marshal's report, which is an integral part of the case," said Samantha Montreuil, who represented the City of Ottawa at Provincial Offences Court on Thursday.

Montreuil and the school board's legal representative, Natalia Werhun of Nelligan O'Brien Payne, agreed to return to court on March 22.

Ottawa Fire Services laid a charge for welding or cutting operations undertaken in a completely closed container, fire officials say.

Leighton was working in the school shop when a drum with oil residue inside exploded. Students said he was cutting the drum open to make a barbecue as part of a school project.

The Ontario Fire Marshal is investigating the explosion, as is the Ministry of Labour.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Eric Leighton died in an explosion at his school.

WADE PAYNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Shania Twain appears at the CMA Fan Festival in Nashville, Tenn., in June. A former Ottawa doctor convicted of harassing the singer is appealing his conviction and sentence.

Obsessed Shania fan appeals conviction

A former Ottawa doctor who harassed singer Shania Twain is appealing his conviction and sentence.

Giovanni (John) Palumbo pleaded guilty in September, but according to the Ministry of the Attorney General, he has filed a notice of appeal.

He is hoping to get his convictions for criminal harassment by watching and besetting and failure to comply with a court order overturned, as well as his sentence of time served and three years' probation.

Palumbo was in custody between March, when he was arrested at the Juno Awards with a greeting card to give to Twain, and last month, when he was released after his sentencing.

He was also ordered not to be within a half-kilometre of Twain, her family or any of her staff, not to communicate with her directly or indirectly and to continue counselling.

Palumbo is now representing himself and there is no court date scheduled for his appeal.

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Carlos the Jackal gets second life sentence

Carlos the Jackal, the flamboyant Venezuelan who symbolized Cold War terrorism, was sentenced to life in prison — again — in a Paris trial that ended late Thursday with him rallying for revolution and weeping for Moammar Gadhafi.

Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, hasn't seen freedom since French agents spirited him out of Sudan in a sack in 1994. He's already serving a life sentence in a French prison for a triple murder in 1975, the worst punishment meted out in a country that does not have the death penalty.

Once one of world's most-wanted men, the former gun-for-hire and self-proclaimed revolutionary was escorted out of his cell and back to court last month to face charges that he instigated four bombings in France in 1982 and 1983 that killed 11 people and injured more than 140 others. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France's Jacques Chirac found guilty

Judge finds former president guilty of corruption during days as Paris mayor Avoids jail sentence in case that hooked nation and pitted left against right

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ This Feb. 24, 2007, file photo shows ex-president Jacques Chirac at the Elysee Palace.

As French president, Jacques Chirac was called all sorts of names, not the least for his vociferous opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Now, he has a moniker that will stick: Convicted criminal.

The avuncular 79-year-old on Thursday became France's first former leader to be convicted since Marshal Philippe Petain, who headed the Nazi collaborationist regime during World War II, in 1945. Chirac will not go to prison, but received a two-year suspended sentence for corruption linked to his 18-year term as the mayor of Paris.

In a statement hours after the decision, Chirac said though he "categorically contest(ed)" the verdict, he would not appeal.

Despite the "pain and the profound sadness this verdict has inflicted," the statement said, "I sadly no longer have the necessary strength to lead before new judges the combat for the truth."

He said that as mayor, "it is up to me and me alone to take responsibility," but stressed that "above all, I affirm with honour: I cannot be blamed for anything."

"I leave (judgment) to my compatriots, who know who I am: an honest man who never had any other desire or motivation than the unity of the French people, the greatness of France, and action in favour of peace."

The verdict was an uncomfortable coda to Chirac's four-decade career as a fixture of French politics, and could aid efforts by critics to rid the political system of its cushy cronyism.

Chirac was found guilty in two related cases involving 19 totally or partially fake jobs created for his benefit at the RPR party, which he led as Paris mayor from 1977 to 1995. He was convicted of embezzling public funds, abuse of trust and illegal conflict of interest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. adopts new limits on chimp research

Days in the laboratory are numbered for chimpanzees, humans' closest relative.

Chimps paved astronauts' way into space and were vital in creating some important medicines. But the U.S. government said Thursday that science has advanced enough that, from now on, chimpanzees essentially should be a last resort in medical research.

Chimps' similarity with people "demands special consideration and respect," said Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institute of Health.

TERRY GILLIAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Keeli, a chimpanzee at Ohio State University

His move came after the prestigious Institute of Medicine declared that most use of chimpanzees for invasive medical research no longer can be justified — and that strict new limits should determine which experiments are important enough to outweigh the moral cost of involving this species that is so like us.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario doctor to lead new international cancer study

Innovative medical trial will treat patients with high-dose radiation

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN LONDON, ONT.

A doctor from London, Ont., has set out to cure the incurable.

That may be the easiest way to explain an international medical trial being headed by Dr. David Palma, a radiation oncologist with the London Regional Cancer Program and a researcher at Lawson Health institute.

"What we're trying to do in this study is take patients who have had cancer spread … and treat them with this very precise high-dose radiation," Palma said about the $100,000 trial, funded mostly through the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

If the trial plays out, Palma and others hope to prove that cancer can be stopped even if it's spread throughout the body.

Traditionally, doctors have approached cancer in one of two ways, Palma said: The first approach is for localized cancer, when there's a tumour in only one part of the body. It's considered curable and treated through surgery, radiation, chemo or a combination of the three.

Cancer that has started in, say, the lungs and has spread to colon or bones is considered incurable. In that case, doctors generally employ approach No. 2: chemotherapy and low-dose radiation to simply slow the spread.

Palma's study aims to prove that cancer "probably isn't an all-or-nothing situation." Instead of simply managing a case of cancer that has spread, the new treatment literally "zaps" tiny tumours with intense radioactive therapy.

The idea isn't really new — London-area doctors have been testing it with patients for the past few years, Palma said.

While the results have been promising, an all-out clinical trial is needed to prove the method can work within the medical community, the doctor said.

The trial — which will include test cases in Europe, British Columbia and at least one Ontario city — will work with 99 patients over four years. Half of the patients are expected to come from London.

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The doctor is in ... such a big crowd

Record number of MDs are working

The number of practising doctors in Canada is at an all-time high.

Nearly 70,000 physicians were working last year, a new report shows.

The report — released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information — suggests the doctor shortage of a few years ago is being resolved.

We may even be heading to a glut if the supply of MDs isn't better managed, the report suggests.

35%

There were 203 physicians for every 100,000 Canadians in 2010, up 35 per cent from the rate in 1980.

Another report by the agency said the average family doctor grossed $239,000 in 2010. The average specialist's gross income was $341,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming. Afghan stint ends

▶ The sign says it all : Capt. Steph Barteaux is hugged by her dad Bruce and mom Bonnie after arriving in Ottawa on Thursday. She was among the last Canadian soldiers to leave Kandahar, signifying the close of Operation ATHENA, Canada's longest combat mission in Afghanistan

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldier returns to her family's loving arms

MacKay lived like a king in Europe, group says

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of living like a king while he attended conferences in Europe.

The group said Thursday it used access-to-information requests to uncover hotel bills that show MacKay spent $1,452 a night for a two-night stay at a hotel in Munich and $770 a night for three nights in Istanbul.

Gregory Thomas, national director of the group, said MacKay's staff had rooms in the same Munich hotel for $276 a night.

But the federation's complaints may be misdirected. MacKay was attending an annual security conference, held at Munich's Hotel Bayerischer Hof in February 2010.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILES

▶ A new fuss for Peter MacKay: He's accused of high spending while in Europe.

Senior federal officials said MacKay stayed at the hotel at the request of the German government, along with all other heads of delegation. "The organizers wanted and insisted upon that," said a Foreign Affairs source.

Thomas said his group filed an access request after it was revealed MacKay had an air force helicopter pick him up from a fishing lodge in Newfoundland.

"Going on the basis there's never only one cockroach, we just thought we'd, you know, look at some ... of the minister's other travel expenses."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Weather could make enemies of polar bears

They're etched onto our coins, are part of our national identity and lure tourists to the Arctic every year, but the majestic Canadian polar bear could pose a significant risk to northern communities if climate change continues to wreak havoc on its natural habitat.

"It's potentially quite serious in terms of human-bear interactions," says Ian Stirling, an Edmonton-based scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service who has studied polar bears for 41 years.

"It's a big problem in northern communities, it already is. They're killing 30, 40, 50 problem bears a year in the Canadian Arctic because they're threatening human life or property."

The adjunct professor at the University of Alberta wants to drive home the point that action is needed to combat the climate change, which has the potential to turn the typically mild-mannered mammals into a risk.

In his new book, Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species, Stirling says the biggest threat to the bears is an increasingly warming climate, which is causing earlier and more widespread melting of northern sea ice.

The ice is crucial to the bears because it serves as a hunting platform to access their primary food sources — particularly ringed seal pups. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A polar bear mother and her two cubs walk along the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Man., in this Nov. 7, 2007, photo.

U.S. marks end of mission in Iraq

Troops end presence with small service Iraqis' future uncertain

There was no Mission Accomplished banner. No victory parade down the centre of this capital scarred and rearranged by nearly nine years of war. No crowds of cheering Iraqis grateful for liberation from Saddam Hussein.

Instead, the U.S. military officially declared an end to its mission in Iraq on Thursday with a businesslike closing ceremony behind blast walls in a fortified compound at Baghdad airport. The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered and boxed up in a 45-minute ceremony. No senior Iraqi political figures attended.

With that, and brief words from top U.S. officials who flew in under tight security still necessary because of the ongoing violence in Iraq, the U.S. drew ended a war that left 4,500 Americans and more than 100,000 Iraqis dead.

As the last troops withdraw from Iraq, they leave behind a nation free of Saddam's tyranny but fractured by violence and fearful of the future. Bombings and gun battles are still common. And experts are concerned about the Iraqi security forces' ability to defend the nation against foreign threats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/POOL/AP PHOTOS

▶ U.S. Command Sgt. Major Joseph R. Allen, left, and U.S. army Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, wrap up a flag used by the U.S. forces in Iraq during a ceremony in Baghdad on Thursday.

Reaction

- **"With this withdrawal,** the Americans are leaving behind a destroyed country," said Mariam Khazim, a Shiite whose father was killed by a mortar shell.
- **"The Americans did not** leave modern schools or big factories behind them. Instead, they left thousands of widows and orphans. The Americans did not leave a free people and country behind them; in fact, they left a ruined country and a divided nation."
- **"The American ceremony** represents the failure of the U.S. occupation of Iraq due to the great resistance of the Iraqi people," said lawmaker Amir al-Kinani.

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UNITED NATIONS

UN official promotes gay rights

The UN's top human rights official urged countries Thursday to abolish legal discrimination against gays, days after the U.S. government said it would use foreign aid and diplomacy to promote gay equal rights.

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said governments should also outlaw all forms of abuse based on sexual orientation.

Pillay's appeal came in a report released Thursday to the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council, which in June passed the global body's first resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination. That vote was hailed by the U.S. but decried by some Muslim nations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia scrambles to save whales

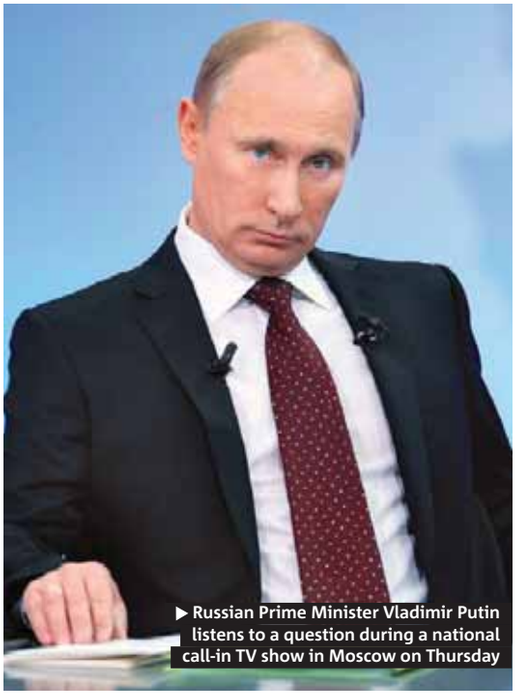
Russian agencies are trying to save some 100 beluga whales — an endangered species — that are trapped among large chunks of polar ice floating in the frigid Bering Sea.

Russia's nature protection watchdog says there is a chance that the whales might perish. Authorities say the ice is 10-15 centimetres thick and is preventing the whales from reaching the open sea where they can swim freely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking to the television

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin listens to a question during a national call-in TV show in Moscow on Thursday

Putin, opposition give no ground amid unprecedented wave of discontent over recent Russian vote

Sharp-tongued and defiant, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denounced those protesting vote fraud as stooges of the West and insisted that Russia's national election was valid. His opponents were undeterred.

In a four-and-a-half-hour marathon call-in show on national TV, Putin aimed to erect a bulwark against a rising wave of discontent. But his disdainful tone appeared likely to only fuel more protests, after a fraud-tainted parliamentary vote Dec. 4 sparked the largest public anger Russia has seen in a generation.

He dismissed opposition claims that vote fraud had given Putin's United Russia party a majority of the seats in parliament.

3,500

In a telling display of anger, the number of people who signed up on Facebook to go to the Dec. 24 rally increased from 18,000 to 21,500 just in the hours Putin was speaking.

The opposition was not mollified.

"The boorish, disdainful attitude toward the people that Putin demonstrated in today's television show was obvious," said Boris Nemtsov, a prominent opposition leader, in a blog post after the show.

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Defectors kill 27 Syrian soldiers

Attacks could lead to new cycle of escalation: Expert

Army defectors killed 27 government forces on Thursday in apparently coordinated attacks that were among the deadliest by rebel troops since the uprising began nine months ago.

The fighting began around daybreak in the southern province of Daraa, where the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian regime began in March.

Syria has seen a sharp escalation in armed clashes recently, raising concerns the country of 22 million is headed toward civil war.

Sanctions by Western powers, Turkey and the Arab League have added to the growing pressure on al-Assad from within Syria. U.S. State Department official Frederic Hof told Congress on Wednesday that al-Assad's repression may allow him to hang on to power, but only for a short time.

Still, the regime could exploit the escalation of armed attacks by military defectors to escalate the crackdown with full force on pockets of defectors concentrated in Daraa and the northwestern province of Idlib that borders Turkey.

Defectors from the Free Syrian Army, whose leaders are based in exile in neighbouring Turkey, fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a bus carrying policemen into the town of Busra al-Harir on Thursday, killing 12 officers, an activist based nearby said.

That set off clashes with an accompanying force of soldiers. The defectors killed 13 of them, said the activist, who would only agree to be identified by his first name, Omar, for fear of retribution.

The fighters then killed two more soldiers in an attack on a checkpoint, he said.

Busra al-Harir is home to about 300 army defectors who have been clashing with regime forces daily for nearly a week, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This amateur footage from TV made available by a group called Ugarit News on Thursday shows what appears to be a Syrian tank on fire in Homs, Syria, as gunfire rings out. The tank then apparently exploded. According to information released with this video, members of the al-Farouq brigade blew up the tank. The brigade is part of the Free Syrian Army and is reportedly made up of Syrian army defectors.

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Russia hopes to end fighting with new plan

Russia surprised fellow UN Security Council members on Thursday with a proposed new resolution to address the rising violence in Syria.

Western members of the council who have been pressing for tough measures against President Bashar al-Assad's regime welcomed the move, but said it didn't go far enough because it didn't include an arms embargo or other sanctions.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said the text calls for an end to the violence.

In the draft, obtained by The Associated Press, the Security Council "demands that all parties in Syria immediately stop any violence irrespective of where it comes from."

It also "urges the Syrian government to put an end to suppression of those exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association" and called for speedy investigations into events that killed or injured civilians and security personnel.

The League of Arab States is encouraged to keep working with all parties to end the violence and promote political dialogue, including through deployment of league observers to assess the situation inside the country, according to the draft. And the government and opposition are urged to work with the Arab League.

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Reasons for Knox verdict revealed

Italian court cited weak evidence at original trial as reason American was cleared of murder

LUCA BRUNO/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Amanda Knox.

The Italian appeals court that cleared Amanda Knox in the slaying of her British roommate gave the reasons for its ruling on Thursday: the evidence that had been used by a lower court to convict the American and her Italian boyfriend of murder just didn't hold up.

Those shortcomings included no murder weapon, faulty DNA, an inaccurate time for the killing, and insufficient proof that Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were even at the location where the crime occurred. So said the Perugia appellate court in its long-awaited reasoning behind its October ruling that reversed the lower court's convictions.

Meredith Kercher was found slain in her bedroom floor in Perugia, Italy, on Nov. 2, 2007.

Knox and Sollecito, who had begun dating at the time of the murder, were arrested several days later, then convicted in what prosecutors portrayed as a drug-fuelled sexual assault. They were sentenced to 26 and 25 years, respectively.

On Thursday, the appellate cited among the other failed elements of the prosecutors' case DNA evidence, which was undermined during a re-examination in the appeals trial, and the failure to conclusively identify the murder weapon. The appellate court contradicted the lower court's time of death, saying it happened at around 10:15 p.m., not after 11 p.m. The court said the "building blocks" used to construct the case failed or were missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tower. Skate

▶ Ice skaters slide on the ice rink set 57 metres above the ground on the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

FRANCOIS MORI/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris puts tourists on ice

Lodged between two of the Eiffel Tower's immense latticed steel legs, Paris's new ice rink is not big at 200 square metres, but adds a new dimension to the views from Paris' best-known landmark. It will remain open until Jan. 31.

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Chinese district to ban veils and beards?

A city district in heavily Muslim western China is apparently trying to tamp down religious fervour by prohibiting people from wearing veils, traditional Arab dress or growing long beards.

A notice from the Dunmaili district of Yining said the campaign's objective was "to completely get rid of the abnormal phenomenon in the entire community of minority ethnic women and youth wearing Arabian dress, growing beards and covering their faces in veils."

'Diehards' hit

- The notice said stubborn individuals who refused to give up their veils, Arab dress or long beards should be educated, and "diehards" turned over to judicial departments.

Yining is in Xinjiang, a region home to the traditionally Muslim Uighur ethnic group.

Many Uighurs resent Chinese rule and controls on their religion and culture and the region has occasionally seen violent unrest.

Xinjiang regional spokesperson Hou Hanmin said she was unaware of the campaign. She said people in Xinjiang are free to wear what they like.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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www.HummingbirdMediSPA.com

BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A relative of a toxic-liquor victim cries at a hospital near Kolkata on Thursday.

Bootleg liquor kills 143

Methanol blamed 10 arrested

Bootleg liquor containing toxic methanol killed 143 people and sickened dozens more in eastern India, officials said Thursday.

The cheap, illicit brew is bought at small shops. Police arrested 10 suspected bootleggers.

Emergency medical teams rushed to a village outside Kolkata, and thousands of relatives, many of them wailing in grief, gathered outside the packed local hospital.

Inside, dead bodies lay on the floor covered in quilts, while the ill waited on staircases to be treated.

Groups of men sat in the halls with saline drips running into their arms.

Abdul Gayen cried inconsolably for his son, Safiulla, a labourer who drank some of the liquor Monday night and then complained of lightheadedness.

When Safiulla woke up the next morning, he fell and began frothing at the mouth, Gayen said.

He died before his family could get him to the hospital.

"Safiulla was the lone bread earner in our family. I don't know what will happen to us now," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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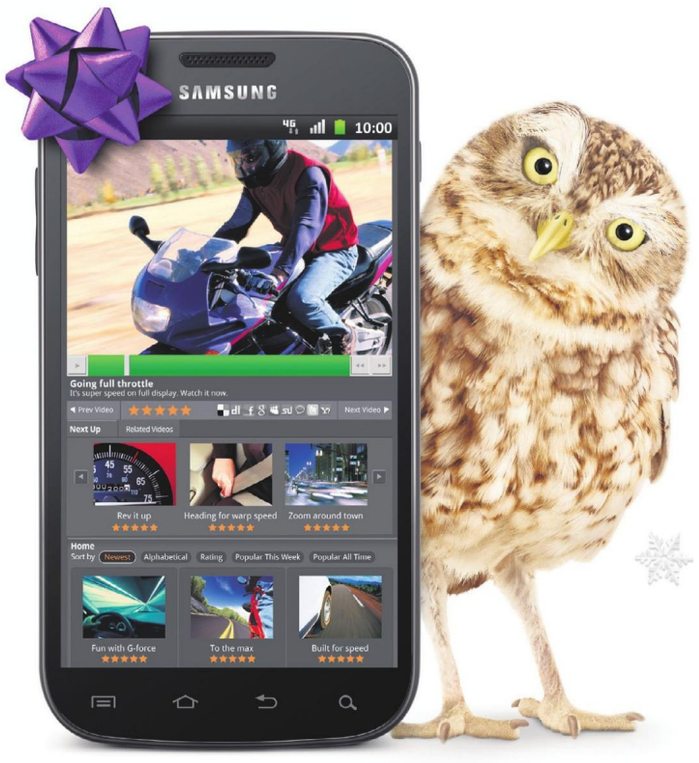

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Kanata
Kanata Centrum Walk

Kingston
Cataraqui Town Centre
646 Norris Crt.
764 Gardiners Rd.
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Canada's odd online searches

Google releases list of search engine's bizarre, most popular queries from across country

Canadians may be among the most digitally savvy in the world but perhaps a lesson in using Google is in order.

The search giant released its annual lists of the most popular searches on Thursday and the biggest query of the year was www.census2011.gc.ca.

Even Google is at a loss to explain why so many Canadians typed the URL for the Canadian census site into the search engine, rather than just accessing the address directly.

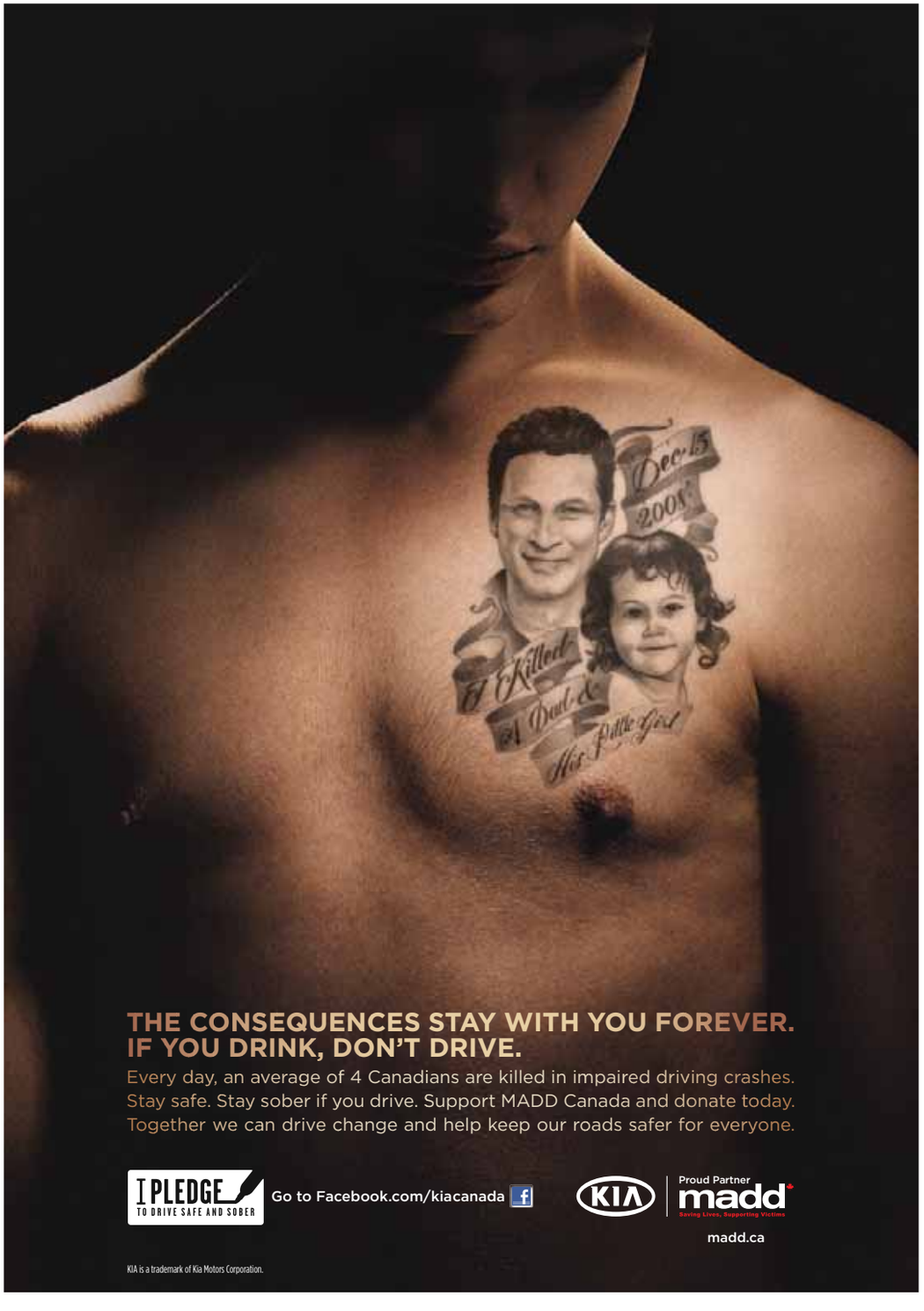
"It's peculiar," said Google Canada spokesman Aaron Brindle.

"Typing in 'census' would've made more sense to me as well but I guess there were millions and millions of Canadians that must've put in the URL."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Popular searches

- **For several years,** Facebook has been the top search of the year on Google — even though it would take just a few extra taps to enter the .com and go directly to the site.
- **Other top searches in Canada** this year include YouTube, Toronto, you, Hotmail, Kijiji, weather, game and Yahoo, showing that users often use a Google search as a way to click onto their fave sites.
- **Bizarrely,** "google" is consistently one of the year's top searches on Google.
- **The search** for www.census2011.gc.ca was the "fastest-rising" query of the year. Second was Skyrim, shorthand for a popular video game.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Christmas. Ad

▶ A pedestrian passes a poster unveiled as part of a church advertising campaign, outside St. Anne's Church in Manchester City Centre, Manchester, England, on Thursday.

JON SUPER/JON SUPER

Nativity scene with style

With only days to go until Christmas, the church group unveiled a poster Thursday to remind people of the religious aspect of the holiday. A beautifully groomed Mary with a fashionably dressed Joseph gaze adoringly at a baby's crib while wise men carry a Faberge egg, a crystal bottle of perfume and a decorated skull. The poster was deliberately designed to look like a fashion photograph.

2011's word of the year is ...

When the time came for Merriam-Webster to pick its top word of 2011, its editors decided they needed to be pragmatic.

So they chose ... pragmatic.

The word, an adjective that means practical and logical, was looked up so often on Merriam-Webster's online dictionary that the publisher says "pragmatic" was the pragmatic choice for 2011. "Pragmatic" may have sparked users' interest because they'd heard it in conversations, and because it captures the current American mood of encouraging practicality over frivolity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top words

- **Merriam-Webster** has been picking its top choice since 2003. Past winners include: austerity (2010), admonish (2009) and bailout (2008).

Friday, December 16

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China. Choco-chic

▶ A model shows off clothing partially made of chocolate during a chocolate fashion show in Shanghai, China, on Thursday.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fashioned from chocolate

More than money at stake in developing Arctic: Report

Melting of permafrost due to climate change affecting infrastructure

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ A speed-limit sign along the road near the Meadowbank gold mine in Nunavut.

Governments and businesses are being advised they must look beyond immediate economic benefits when it comes to paying for roads, ports and rail lines in the Arctic.

The Conference Board of Canada said in a report released Thursday that even though such projects are more expensive to build and maintain than they would be in the south, they're still worth it.

"If you've got an all-weather road into a community, it's a lot easier and cheaper to get goods and people into and out of those communities than if you're dependent on a winter road that's only open for an increasingly short number of weeks," said David Stewart-Patterson, the think-tank's vice-president.

"But it's not just about access to economic opportunities. It's access to essential public services."

Canada's North is poorly served by transportation infrastructure. Aside from private roads built for specific resource projects, Nunavut has only 21 kilometres of all-weather road in the entire territory. It has only one harbour, despite the fact almost all its communities are along shorelines.

The northern reaches of the provinces face similar limitations. The report says 25,000 people in northern Manitoba depend entirely on winter roads, the season for which is shrinking yearly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 38.63 (11,504.42)	+ $0.36¢ (96.55¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas
- $1.08 US ($93.87 US)	$3.127 US (- 0.9¢ US)

	Gold
	$1,577.20 US (- 9.70 US)

Canada Post No. 8 in G20

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

British firm Oxford Strategic Consulting says Canada Post takes the No. 8 spot in its ranking of postal services in the G20 countries.

The ranking is based on postal service providers' performance over the three years from 2008-10 looking at access to services, efficiency and performance.

The U.S. Postal Service took the No. 1 spot, followed by Japan Post, Australia Post and Korea Post.

Oxford says the USPS topped the ranking due to its high operating efficiency over the three years — delivering eight times more letters per full-time delivery employee than Canada Post.

The report says the expansion of e-commerce means there is an even greater need for postal services to be fast, efficient and reliable — especially during the busy holiday season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Board sets rules for Arctic drilling

Canada's energy regulator will continue to require that oil and gas companies wanting to operate in sensitive Arctic waters be able to drill immediate relief wells to help contain blowouts.

The recommendation was released Thursday by the National Energy Board in its review of the rules for northern offshore drilling. The review was undertaken after the massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The applicant must demonstrate, in its contingency plan, the capacity to drill a relief well to kill an out-of-control well during the same drilling season," the board's guidelines say about drilling applications. "An applicant must demonstrate this capability."

But the board suggests in accompanying documents that it might be willing to consider alternatives on a case-by-case basis.

That flexibility was welcomed by industry. "It allows for innovation. It allows for companies to put other things forward," said Travis Davies of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A PIECE OF (EXPLETIVE) IN THEIR STOCKING

THE METRO LIST

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

We're makin' a list, checkin' it twice.
So you're gonna find out who's naughty and nice … which is especially important this time of year.

1 **Justin Trudeau** has been very naughty. The son of former Prime Potty Mouth Pierre Trudeau (remember "fuddle duddle"?) demonstrates that the rotten apple doesn't fall very far from the tree as he loses it in question period and refers to Environment Minister Peter Kent as the four-letter version of a piece of excrement. At least he's efficient.

2 **Canadians** confirm they are the world's most boring people by making the census and Canada Post their two fastest-rising Google searches. While the rest of the world made 14-year-old pop curiosity Rebecca Black their fastest-rising search for Friday, dubbed by critics as "the worst song ever," we're looking into overnight delivery and number of adults per household. We're soooo nice. Sigh.

3 **The Protester** is Time Magazine's Person of the Year. OK, you've occupied our media and our minds for the requisite 15 minutes. Time to lay down your pitchforks and your torches and go back to your farms and families. You've been naughty for a noble cause.

4 **Albert Pujols** has agreed to play baseball for the Los Angeles Angels for the next 10 years. In return the team has agreed to pay him $50,000 every time he steps up to the plate, even though his batting average has lost more than 50 points since the 2008 season. Nice! Albert Pujols is definitely a member of the one per cent. How come nobody tries to Occupy the Dugout?

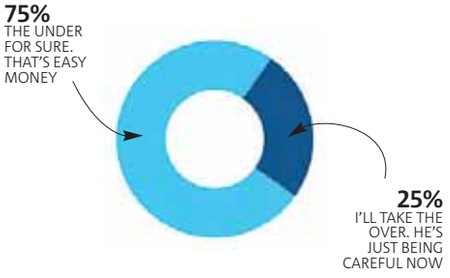
5 **The Artist**, the silent movie, leads the Golden Globe nominations with six. Silence is, er, golden. Meanwhile, last weekend was the worst in modern box-office history. Is there a pattern here? Fortunately the notoriously naughty Robert Downey Jr. opens this week as Sherlock Holmes in A Game of Shadows. As the main competition is Alvin and the Chipmunks, Sherlock's duel with Professor Moriarty, the Nabob of Naughty, expects to gross more than $50 million.

6 **The Higgs boson** has made it a pretty nice week for science nerds as the VBEM (Very Big Expensive Machine) at CERN in Switzerland has identified tantalizing hints that the Holy Grail of physics, a.k.a. the God particle, the elemental building block of Everything, exists. They seek it here; they seek it there; that damned elusive particle. Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion early in 2012.

7 **Justin Bieber** is the most searched image on Google in 2011. Overexposed. And not in a nice way.

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Bodog has set the over-under for games played by Sidney Crosby at 38.5. What would you take?



Local tweets

- **@ColleenTalk:** A record-setting 11.1 degrees in Ottawa today. Green Christmas?
- **@MikeMachargo:** Ok #ottawa where do I buy snowglobes?
- **@ayearofbeer:** Sitting on the train to Ottawa and craving some craft beer. Why does VIA hate good beer?
- **@JessicaTurner01:** It's super weird to see my HS crush (Mark Mancari) trending on Twitter...he opened the door for me once and I almost passed out. #teengirl
- **@marveTha_illest:** I hate when ppl from ottawa rap bout how they hate the city. You've lived there all ur life stfu nd stop trashin ur town.
- **@sarahhunter144:** Are pigs flying? Is the sky falling? Because Ottawa has no snow and it's freaking me out. #weird #isitapril
- **@CoreyTamas:** Today, ask anyone who lives in Ottawa if global warming is a hoax.

Daily Zoom

LOS ANGELES COUNTY-USC MEDICAL CENTER /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiny baby beats enormous odds

Second-smallest baby in the U.S.

Melinda Guido is pictured shortly after her birth in late August with the hand of Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan as a comparison. Melinda was born at 24 weeks weighing 9.5 ounces.

She's believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl power

- Most tiny babies who survive tend to be female because female fetuses mature faster than males.
- The smallest surviving baby, born weighing 9.2 ounces, is now a healthy seven-year-old. Another who weighed 9.9 ounces at birth is an honours college student.

"The first few weeks, it was touch and go. None of us thought the baby was going to make it."

DR. RANGASAMY RAMANATHAN

Two more weeks

Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan predicted at least another two-week stay at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for the premature baby, dashing her parents' hopes of taking her home by Christmas. Melinda can breathe by herself, but still uses an oxygen tube as a precaution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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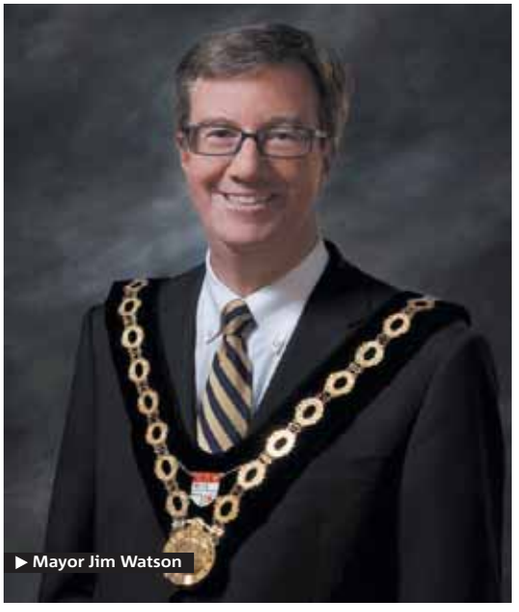

▶ Mayor Jim Watson

Metro readers pick Ottawa's best

What's the best place in town to get Vietnamese food? Pizza? How about a tattoo? Metro's readers have spoken, and we've tabulated the results here in the third annual Metro Choice Awards.

Significant bragging rights come with being voted the best of anything in Ottawa, because Ottawa itself stacks up so well against the competition. Earlier this year, Ottawa once again took first place on Moneysense magazine's list of the best places to live in Canada.

Just last month, consulting company Mercer released its annual Worldwide Quality of Living Survey, which ranks 221 cities around the world on factors like the local economy, culture, health and transportation services, and recreation. Ottawa took the number 14 spot in the world, just ahead of Toronto, with our high tech sector and educated populace helping to tip the balance.

The top cities in the world are often the most costly to live in, but Ottawa bucks that trend too, also rated by Mercer the least expensive city in Canada.

But what's truly best in Ottawa always depends on who you ask. Shoppers camped out for the opening of Canada's largest IKEA store earlier this month, while the best recent news for film-lovers was the opening of a new Mayfair Theatre location, spreading their downtown rep cinema experience to Orleans.

For Mayor Jim Watson, it's the city's wild side – its parks, beaches and green space – that comes to mind first.

"Ottawa has a very high quality of life because over the generations we've protected a lot of green space," he said, adding that there aren't many cities in which you can go downhill skiing a twenty minute drive from downtown.

"I think we have the best of both worlds. We've got big city amenities like our cultural institutions and a lot of small town charm like the mill in Manotick," he said. "I like to bring visitors to Watson's Mill in Manotick and pretend it's mine."

Also high on Mayor Watson's list are local eateries with unique character like the Newport Restaurant in Westboro or Nate's Deli on Merivale Road, as well as all the national landmarks that come with being Canada's capital.

"Whether it's the War Museum or Parliament Hill, sometimes we take for granted that these things are in our backyard," he said. "But people come from all over the world to visit these institutions and we're fortunate to have them here."

HOW THEY WON

The winners of the third annual Metro Choice Awards were chosen in an online vote by readers and members of Club Metro, home of all our weekly promotions and contests, with 4,000 members in Ottawa and 50,000 across Canada.

Those who voted for their local favourites also qualified to win prizes.

"By voting and participating in your community and voting for the best in each category, you are entered to win," said Metro Ottawa's General Manager, Dara Mottahed.

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Greek On Wheels
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MARC DESROSIERS/FOR METRO

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Pearl of India
Host India
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Carmello's

JAPANESE
Sushi Kan
Suisha Gardens
Japanese Village Restaurant

KOREAN
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MEXICAN
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Ahora Mexican Cuisine
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MIDDLE EASTERN
Istanbouli Restaurant
Shawarma Palace
Salang Kabob House

THAI
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Lemon Grass
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▶ Tattoo artist Darin Comley works on client Carissa Broeren's tattoo at Universal Tattoo.

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According to the 2006 census, the population of the City of Ottawa is 812,000, but when you count the entire NCR the number jumps to 1,451,415 people.

MARC DESROSIERS/FOR METRO

▶ Canadian Museum of Nature

36.7

The average age of a citizen of Ottawa is 36.7, making it one of the nation's youngest cities.

RICHARD TARDIF

▶ Yan Larouche with other FreshBeat members at The Ottawa Electric Music Festival

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Synopsis

The puzzle at the heart of Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows begins with the death of the Crown Prince of Austria. Written off as a suicide, Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) deduces there is more to the story. Enter Watson (Jude Law), who should be on his honeymoon, a beautiful fortune-teller (Noomi Rapace, the original girl with the dragon tattoo), the evil Moriarty and more intrigue than you can shake a deerstalker hat at. This week the game's afoot with Reel Guy Ned Ehrbar!

Ratings:
Richard: ⊕⊕½
Ned: ⊕⊕⊕

HANDOUT

▶ Game of Shadows is more a vehicle for Robert Downey Jr.'s witty banter and Guy Ritchie's love for action sequences than it is a great mystery.

Elementary plot

Game of Shadows is light on the storyline, but heavy on action and witty banter

Reel Guys
RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Richard: Ned, there is no question that RDJ and Law bring a certain joie de vivre to the usually staid portrayal of the great detective and his loyal sidekick. They look like they're having a ball, probably more fun than the audience, in fact. As enjoyable as it is to watch these two riff off one another it soon becomes clear the whole movie is nothing more than a vehicle for their banter.

Ned: The banter is delightful, there's no denying that. But when they're not sniping at each other, you start to notice the plot doesn't really measure up to a detective of Holmes' stature — or offer any original ideas. Basically, if you don't want the movie spoiled for you, wipe the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen from your memory, as Moriarty's scheme is exactly the same in both movies. I'm assuming the filmmakers are banking on no one remembering that movie, though — which is a safe bet — but still.

RC: Agreed, if you can figure out the story. Confused and confusing, the plot zips along at such a rapid pace you'll barely know it doesn't make much sense because director Guy Ritchie fills the screen with wildly edited scenes anchored by Downey's flamboyant performance. It looks cool and will make you laugh occasionally, but the quips and extravagantly edited sequences are only fun in the moment. They don't add up to much of a movie.

NE: Some of those cool-looking scenes can grate, as well. A little bit of the Sherlock slow-mo fight analysis goes a long way, but since it got such a good reaction in the first film, Ritchie lays on the bullet time a little thick here. One element that did work for me though was Jared Harris' Moriarty, a dangerously brilliant villain with a plausible cover story as a mild-mannered professor. It's a shame he's not in the movie more, though.

RC: Harris has one seminal psycho moment — is there anything crazier than belting out an aria while torturing your nemesis? — but I didn't think Noomi Repace, while eye catching as Sim, was given enough to do to be truly memorable.

NE: True, she doesn't get much to do besides react to the dynamic duo's chicanery and drop helpful reminders about the plot. And the less said about RJD on a pony, the better. Still, audiences could do a lot worse.

2 scene

Scene in brief

Howard Stern will be joining the judges' panel on America's Got Talent, and the NBC summer talent show will uproot itself from Los Angeles to accommodate the New York-based shock jock, the network said Thursday. NBC confirmed weeks-old rumours of Stern's selection to join fellow Talent judges Howie Mandel and Sharon Osbourne.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Candy Spelling packs up, leaves Spelling Manor — the house that TV built — in HGTV special

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Movie reviews

See it twice ●●●●● | See it now ●●●● | Worth watching ●●● | Yawn ●● | Don't bother ●

Young Adult
Genre: Comedy
Director: Jason Reitman
Stars: Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson
●●

Oscar-winner Charlize Theron takes the cartoon route in this downbeat story of an alcoholic author who proves you can't go home again. Especially when you're an emotional wreck intent on stealing your high school sweetheart from his wife and newborn. Diablo Cody's premise is interesting, but the filmmakers aim low. The film lacks subtlety and complexity and glorifies the bratty inner child, when the grown-up in question should be trying desperately to locate her inner adult. The humour is mild, juvenile and low-brow and veers into verboten territory as regional, sexist and somewhat homophobic.

● ANNE BRODIE

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-Wrecked
Genre: Animation
Director: Mike Mitchell
Stars: Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney
●●

Maybe the first sign of getting old is no longer finding the voices of Alvin and his chipmunk brethren entertaining or even intelligible. The plot for their third theatrical outing gets underway after the recalcitrant rodents get separated from the Carnival cruise ship (ingenious product placemen, that) and end up on that evergreen cartoon trope, the deserted island where zany adventures are had and lessons are learned. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the dragged-along parents as well, but the only jokes to sail over kids' heads in Chip-Wrecked seem to make reference to Internet memes and popular YouTube videos, which just seems lazy more than anything.

● NED EHRBAR

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol
Genre: Action
Director: Brad Bird
Stars: Tom Cruise, Simon Pegg
●●●●

In the fourth Mission Impossible thriller, Tom Cruise and his rogue team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple, underplayed plotline but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, Ghost Protocol's intensity and pace returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies.

● STEVE GOW

Café de Flore
Genre: Drama
Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Stars: Vanessa Paradis, Kevin Parent
●●●

Café de Flore holds the idea of the uncompromising power of true love that connects the stories of a Montreal disc jockey (Kevin Parent) and the single mother (Vanessa Paradis) of a downs syndrome child. The main pleasure here is watching Paradis throw glamour out the window and deliver a gritty performance as a protective mother. ● RICHARD CROUSE

The Mill and the Cross
Genre: Drama
Director: Lech Majewski
Stars: Rutger Hauer, Michael York,
●●

An "adaptation" of Pieter Bruegel's 1564 painting The Way to Calvary, the Mill and the Cross tells the story of both how the painting came to be and the lives of many of the people depicted in it. The film's lack of narrative and clunky dialogue leave a hollow feeling. ● IAN GORMELY

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Tintin's character rings true for Bell

Actor Jamie Bell talks about his childhood fascination with Hergé's detective Tintin a 'beacon of excellence'

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Legend has it that when Steven Spielberg offered Jamie Bell the lead role in The Adventures of Tintin, the actor looked the Hollywood legend in the eye and said, "I'll have to think about it."

"What is true is that he said, 'If you were to be Tintin it would be about five years of your life. Are you comfortable with that?' To me, as a 16-year-old, five years was a really long time (he's 24 now). So I didn't want to be the naïve actor and say, 'OK, I'm fine with that. I wanted to really consider it. I don't even think I said I'd think about it, I just didn't give a definitive answer.

"For me it was more important to be sitting down at a table with him. Just sharing a Hollywood meeting with him was awesome. To me, as a child, he was otherworldly. He was a Houdini character who made dinosaurs live and boys fly on bicycles."

Bell, who first won hearts as the lead in coming-of-age-dance movie Billy Elliot, says getting to make the movie with Spielberg has "remarkable synergy" because "Tintin was one of his favourite childhood things."

Originally, he simply enjoyed the characters, he says, but there was something special that set the stories about the young detective apart from other kid's comics.

"It was different from all the other cartoons. I felt respected, as a kid, by Tintin. That allowed me to gravitate toward him and go on his adventures.

"I was a very inquisitive kid," he says. "I used to watch a lot of political satire comedy shows. I'm sure I had no idea what they were talking about, but they were funny to me. Grown-ups making fun of other grown-ups was hilarious.

"So when I read Tintin and he was travelling around the world solving political corruption, I just knew what was going on."

HANDOUT

▶ The Adventures of Tintin channels the spirit of the beloved books.

The film grabs the spirit of the beloved books, bringing some of the intensity — and mild violence — of the original Hergé books to the screen.

"If Tintin wasn't the beacon of excellence that he is," says Bell, "if he wasn't the guy with the correct moral compass, if he wasn't so innocently earnest all the time, I think that could be an issue.

"But because the character at the front is such a great, natural and instinctual heroic character, I think you kind of get away with it."

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DANIEL CRAIG AND ROONEY MARA

In exclusive one-on-ones, Metro interviewed the stars of this season's most anticipated film, asking what they think of one another, the book's dark tone and Bond, James Bond.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Q+A

Rape. Murder. Freezing cold weather. Happy holidays from the team behind The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, the latest adaptation of Stieg Larsson's international bestseller.

The book — about a journalist (Daniel Craig) who investigates a dysfunctional family's murder mystery, with help from anti-social hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) — has already spawned a successful Swedish film trilogy.

For Craig and Mara, it was a chance to work closely with director David Fincher. Mara appeared in his The Social Network. Tattoo is generating similar Oscar buzz, but it's not without its share of controversy and critics, thanks to some startlingly frank and sexual subject matter.

The set was lighthearted, though. As were the two actors at our chat….

DANIEL CRAIG

Now that you've played a journalist, do you have any more sympathy for journalists?
I've always loved journalists. I don't know where the story's come from, that I have a problem with journalists. I have a problem with intrusion — that's something different completely. But some of my heroes are journalists.

The opening credits made me think what a David Fincher Bond film might look like.
I could see him applying it to anything, really. I'd love to work with him again, and I'd do anything for him. David has a very happy set most of the time — as much as a set can ever be happy when you're filming very dramatic scenes.

There was some financial trouble with the Bond franchise over the last couple of years, but that made it possible for you to do this film.
That's true, it did, yes. I always knew it was going to work itself out. But I'd also kind of said to myself, if it doesn't work out somebody else is going to do it. That's the way it is. Bond will be fine, he'll keep going.

Tattoo has Oscar buzz, but do you worry that the roughness might scare off some voters?
Oh look, I can't think about all that. It's such a crazy period. If it offends a few people, good. I hope it does.

ROONEY MARA

Lisbeth is an iconic character, with piercings and a punk look. How collaborative was David Fincher with you regarding the look?
There were a lot of discussions about the character — about the way she looks, about the way she walks, about the way she talks, about her eye contact, about her mannerisms. But at the end of the day, you know, obviously I'm the person playing the character so he did give me a lot of freedom in that. There was always a lot of talking and a lot of collaboration.

Why do you think it is that when a female character is presented as strong and is in any way sexualized, some people dismiss it as exploitative or misogynistic?
I don't know, because people are stupid? (laughs) I don't know, that's true. I don't know why.

Because I think it scares people. Things that people aren't used to seeing or experiencing scares them. The thing that's so interesting about this character is that she has these two different sides. She's perfectly capable of taking care of herself, but at the same time she's vulnerable and put in these horrible positions.

She's wise beyond her years and incredibly bright, but at the same time she's emotionally stunted at 12 years old and is naïve and doesn't have a lot of experience with other people. So I think that's what makes her so interesting, that she has these opposing sides. She's been sexually abused, but at the same time she's very sexual.

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 16 TO THURS., DEC. 22. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Café de Flore (14A) Fri 9:10 Sat 6:55 Sun 3:50-8:25 Mon 6:35 Tue 4:30 Wed-Thu 9:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Mon 4 Wed 4
Le Havre (PG) Fri 5 Sat 2:45
The Help (PG) Thu 4
The Mill and the Cross (14A) Fri 7:05 Sat 4:50-9:25 Sun 1:45-6:20 Mon 4:30 Tue 9:15 Wed-Thu 7

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Wed
Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (STC) Fri 10:30-11:40-12:50-2 Sat-Sun 1:14-10-11:10-12:55-1:30-2:40-3:50 Thu 4:5-10-5:45-6:55 Fri 11:05-12:15-1:25 Sat-Sun 10:35-12:20-2:05-3:15 Thu 4:35-6:20

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 4:20-7:15-9:55
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-7:20-9:40 Mon 3:30-4:30-7:20-9:40 Tue 3:30-4:30-7:15-9:40 Wed-Thu 3:30-4:30-7:20-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 1:20
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Mon 4:20-7:15-10:05 Tue 4:20-6:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Tue 7:20-9:10 Wed-Thu 4-7:30
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 3:35-6:35-9:35 Thu 3:35-10:05
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon 3:50-6:50-9:50 Tue 3:50 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 12:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 7:10-7:30-10:05-10:25 Wed-Thu 3:20-4:40-7:10-7:40-10:20-10:35
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon 4:10-7:10-10:10 Tue-Thu 4:10-7:05-10:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:20 Mon 4:15-7:25-10:20 Tue 4:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:30 Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10 Mon-Tue 4-7:10 Wed-Thu 3:50-7:10
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sat 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55 Sun 12:55-3:55-6:55 Mon-Tue 3:55-6:55-9:55
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:15 Sun 1:05-4:05-10:15 Mon 4:05-7:05-10:15 Tue 4:05
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Sat 6:45-9:45 Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Mon-Tue 3:45-6:45-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:15-6:45-10:15
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 8

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

The Descendants (14A) Digital Fri 3:35-6:35-9:25 Digital Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:25 Digital Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:25
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Digital Tue 7 Digital Wed-Thu 3:15-6:20-9:30
Hugo (PG) Fri 3:25-6:25-9:15 Sat 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:15 Sun 6:25-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:25-9:15 Digital Sun 12:25-3:25
Margin Call (STC) Digital Fri 3:40-6:40-9:30 Digital Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Digital Mon-Tue 3:40-6:40-9:30 Digital Wed-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:10
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Digital Fri 3:45-6:45-9:35 Digital Sat 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:35 Digital Sun 6:45-9:35 Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:35
New Year's Eve (PG) Digital Fri 3:30-6:30-9:20 Digital Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:20 Digital Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:20
The Way (STC) Digital Fri 3:20-6:20-9:10 Digital Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:10 Digital Mon 3:20-6:20-9:10 Digital Tue 3:20
Young Adult (14A) Digital Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 Digital Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40 Digital Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:40

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403

50/50 (14A) Fri 7 Sat 6:30 Sun 6
Cell 211 (STC) Fri 9:15 Sat 8:45 Sun 8:15
Die Hard (STC) Sun 3:15 Tue 7
Die Hard 2 (STC) Tue 9:30
Elf (G) Sun 1 Mon 7
The Guard (14A) Mon 9:15 Wed-Thu 6
The Gumball Rally (STC) Sat 11:15
Silent Night, Deadly Night (STC) Fri 11:45
World on a Wire (STC) Wed-Thu 8:15

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218,
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Dolphin Tale (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4
The Help (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:30
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-4:50-9:30
Immortals (18A) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:05
In Time (PG) Fri-Thu 9:55-12:05-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:25
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25-12:25-2:35-4:35
Moneyball (PG) Fri 10:15-9:15 Sat 9:15 Sun-Thu 10:15-9:15
Mr. Popper's Penguins (G) Sat 11
Real Steel (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-6:40-9:20
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05-2:25-7

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Wed-Thu 4:30-7:10-9:35
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 4-6:50-9:40
The Muppets (G) Fri 4:20-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:20-7:15-9:40 Mon 4:20-7:15-9:40 Tue 4
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri 4:15-7:9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:9:45 Mon 4:15-7:9:45 Tue 4:05-6:45-9:40 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:9:45
The Sitter (14A) Fri 4:30-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 4:30-7:10-9:30 Tue 4:15-7:10-9:20

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 11:30-2:05-4:45-7:15-9:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Tue 11:10-12:1-2:5-2:15-3:45-4:30-7:9:15 Wed-Thu 11:10-12:1-2:5-2:15-3:45-4:30-6:50-9:15
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Mon 11:1-3:5-4:6:40 Tue 11:20-1:35-4
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Tue 7:10:15 Wed-Thu 11:1:45-3:15-6:45-10:15
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Thu 11:15-1:40
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-6:30-9
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 11:05-1:45-4:25-7:10-10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Mon 9:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 12:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 7:15-7:30-10:15-10:30 Wed-Thu 11-12:30-2-3:30-5:15-7-8:15-10:05
The Muppets (G) Fri-Mon 11:30-2-4:45-7:25-9:55 Tue 11:30-2-4:45-7:25 Wed-Thu 11:20-2:10-5:7:30
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Tue 1:1-4:50-4:35-7:20-10:05 Wed-Thu 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-10
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30
Puss in Boots 3D (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:30-5:10-7:30-9:40
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:15-3:40-6:6:40-8:50-9:30
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Mon 12:40-2:45-5-8-10:05 Tue 12:40-2:45-4:55 Wed-Thu 10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:30-4:20-7:05-9:50 Sat 7:05-9:50 Sun 4:20-7:05-9:50 Mon 12:30-3:30-9:50 Tue 12:30-4:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:05-9:50
Young Adult (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:10 Wed-Thu 12:40-3-5:25-7:40-9:55

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Born to Be Wild 3D (STC) Fri 3 Sat-Sun 10:45-3 Mon 9:30 Tue-Thu 10:45-3
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Sat 8:05 Sun 7:05 Tue 8:05 Thu 8:05
Coraux du Pacifique (STC) Fri 8:05 Wed 8:05
L'Express des Rocheuses (STC) Fri 4-7 Sat-Sun 4 Mon 12:55 Tue 4 Wed 4-7 Thu 4
Nes Pour Etre Libres 3D (STC) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 12:55 Mon-Tue 11:50 Wed-Thu 12:55
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri 11:50-12:55-2:5 Sat 11:50-2:5-6 Mon 10:45-2 Tue 10:45-2:5-7 Wed 10:45-2:5 Thu 10:45-2:5-7

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3-6:50-9 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3-6:50-9 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:20
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (13+) Tue 7:45-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30
New Year's Eve (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 Mon 7 Tue 1-3:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Cambriolage Dans la Tour (STC) Fri-Thu 1:35-4-9
En temps (G) Fri-Thu 3:25-5:20-7:15-9:10
Espions en herbe 4 : Tout le temps du monde (G) Fri-Thu 12
Gants d'acier (G) Fri-Thu 5:25
Harold et Kumar fêtent Noël (STC) Fri-Thu 5:30-8-9:35
Histoire de dauphin (G) Fri-Thu 12-2-6
Jack et Jill (G) Fri-Thu 1:55-7:40-9:15
Les Schtroumpfs (STC) Fri-Thu 12-1:50-3:40-7:05
Les Trois mousquetaires (G) Fri-Thu 12-3:30

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Alvin et les Chipmunks: Les naufragés (G) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40
Les aventures de Tintin 3D (G) Fri 6:30-7:05-9-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-1:15-2:45-4-6:30-7:05-9-9:30 Mon 6:30-7:05-9-9:30 Tue 12:15-1:15-2:45-4-6:30-7:05-9-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:30-7:05-9-9:30
Le chat potté (G) Sat-Sun 1:10-4 Tue 1:10-4
Le gardien d'enfants (13+) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:50 Mon 6:50-9:10 Tue 12:20-3:10-6:50-9:10 Wed-Thu 9:10
Millenium: Les hommes qui n'aimaient pas les femmes (STC) Wed-Thu 8
Mission Noël (G) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:40 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:30-3:20-6:40
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (13+) Tue 6:45-9:35
Mission: Impossible protocole fantôme (13+) Wed-Thu 6:45-9:35
Monsieur Lazhar (G) Fri-Tue 8:45 Wed-Thu 6:50
Les neiges du Kilimanjaro (G) Fri-Mon 7-9:25
La saga Twilight: Révélation 1re partie (G) Fri 6:20-9:05 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:05-6:20-9:05 Mon 6:20-9:05 Tue 12:10-3:05-6:20-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:20-9:05
Sherlock Holmes: Le jeu des ombres (G) Fri 6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:35 Mon 6:45-9:35 Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:35
La veille du nouvel an (G) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:35-7:10-9:45 Mon 7:10-9:45 Tue 1-3:35-7:10-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:45

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090,

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-8:05-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:9:15
Alvin et les Chipmunks: Les naufragés (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5:7:15-9:30
Les aventures de Tintin (G) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:35-7:20-9:55 Tue 12:50-3:35
Les aventures de Tintin 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (STC) Tue 7:10:30 Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10:30
Hugo 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:45-9:40
Immortals (STC) Fri 1:20-4:55-7:40-10:15 Sat 4:55-7:40-10:15 Sun 1:20-4:55-10:15 Mon 1:20-4:55-7:40-10:15 Tue 1:20-4:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 12:55
Millenium: Les hommes qui n'aimaient pas les femmes (STC) Tue 7:15-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:25-3:50-7:15-10:40
Mission Noël (G) Fri-Thu 12:10
Mission Noël 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:35-5:05-7:35-10
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (13+) Tue 7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Mission: Impossible protocole fantôme (13+) Tue 7:45-11 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:05-10:05
Monsieur Lazhar (G) Fri-Sat 1-3:15-6:40-9 Sun 1-3:15-6:40 Mon 1-3:15-6:40-9 Tue 1-3:15
The Muppets (G) Fri-Mon 12:25-2:50-7:05-9:35 Tue 12:25-2:50
New Year's Eve (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:50-9:25
La saga Twilight: Révélation 1re partie (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:45
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:7:30-10:30
Sherlock Holmes: Le jeu des ombres (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-7:10-10:05
The Sitter (13+) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:20-5:30-7:45-9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:25-7:25-10:10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2011 (STC) Sun 8

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 4:50-7:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:30-6:30-9 Mon-Tue 4:40-6:50 Wed-Thu 4:40-7 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Sun 1:20
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:50-9:20 Mon-Tue 5-7:25 Wed-Thu 5-7:20
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Tue 7:25 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:50
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 7:10 Wed-Thu 4:35-7:40
The Muppets (G) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:30-7:10-9:40 Mon 4:35-7:10 Tue 4:35 Wed-Thu 5:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 7:05-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-7:05-9:45 Mon-Tue 4:45-7:40
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:7-9:50 Mon-Tue 4:30-7:35 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:35 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:40-3:50-6:40-9:10 Mon 5:10-7:15 Tue 5:10 Wed-Thu 7:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-10 Mon-Tue 4:50-7:30

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Thu 11-12:10-1:10-2:30-3:30-4:50-5:50-7:15-8:15-9:35-10:35
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 12:20
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:50-5:15-7:40-10 Mon 2:50-10:35 Tue-Thu 2:50-5:15-7:40-10
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Tue 7-7:30-10:25-10:55 Wed-Thu 12:30-4-7:30-10:55 Wed-Thu 11:45-3:15-6:45-10:10
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:05
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 5:30-8
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:30-7:20-10:15 Tue 1:15-4:30 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:20-10:15
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:30 Sat 7:40-10:35 Sun 4:25-7:25 Mon 12-3:15-10:30 Tue 1:25-4:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 12:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 7-7:30-10-10:30 Wed-Thu 1-4-7:15-10:15
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 11-2:5-8:11
The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:20-4:55-7:30-10:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 11:25-2:10-5:05-7:55-10:40 Sat 7:55-10:40 Sun-Thu 11:25-2:10-5:05-7:55-10:40
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Tue 11-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 Wed 11-1:45-3:50-4:45-7:7:45-10-10:45 Thu 11-12:50-1:45-3:50-4:45-7:7:45-10-10:45 Fri-Sat 12:50-3:50-7:10 Sun 12:55-3:50-7:10 Mon-Tue 12:50-3:50-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening, Wed 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Tue 11:20-1:30-3:45-6-8:20-10:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3-5:35-8:05-10:35 Sun 12:30-3-5:35-10:35 Mon 12:30-3-5:35-8:05-10:35 Tue 12:30-3
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:10-1:50-4:35-7:35-10:20
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (18A) Fri-Mon 10:25
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2011 (STC) Sun 8
Young Adult (14A) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Wed 3:20-5:40-8:10-10:35 Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

ORLEANS

EMPIRE THEATRES ORLEANS 6 CINEMAS
3752 Innes Rd., 613-830-4400

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:15
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:10 Mon 4:30-6:45-9:10 Tue 12-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:10 Wed-Thu 4:30-6:45-9:10
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sun 1:10 Tue 1:10 Wed-Thu 3-6:15-9
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Mon 4:15-6:50-9:20 Tue 4:15
Les aventures de Tintin 3D (PG)Wed-Thu 3:40-7:20
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Tue 7 Wed-Thu 3-6:30-10
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3-6:15-9 Mon 3-6:15-9 Tue 12:15-3
Hugo (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10 Tue 12:10
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 3:15-6:20-9:40
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 6:30-9:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:15-10:30
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon 4:30-7:10-9:50 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-7:15-10:15 Mon 3:50-7:15-10:15 Tue 1-3:50-7:15-10:15 Wed-Thu 3:45-7:15-10:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10 Mon 4-7:10 Tue 1-4-7:10 Wed-Thu 3:15-4-6:30-7-9:30-10 Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon 3:30-6:30-9:30 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:10-7:30-10:20 Mon-Tue 4:10-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 3:20-7:30-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:20-10:10 Mon 3:40-7:20-10:10 Tue 12:40-3:40-7:20-10:10 Wed-Thu 10:10

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The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Wed-Thu 11:50-2:30-5:7:30-10
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 10:35-1:05-3:45-6:30-9:15
The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Wed-Thu 11:05-2
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 11:10-11:50-1:35-2:15-4:10-4:40-6:30-7:15-9-9:45 Mon-Tue 2:15-4:10-4:40-6:30-7:15-9-9:45 Wed-Thu 11:10-11:50-1:35-2:15-4:10-4:40-6:30-7:15-9-9:45
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 10:40-2:05-4:30-7:35-10 Sat-Sun 10:40-11:40-2:05-4:30-7:35-10 Mon-Tue 2:05-4:30-7:35-10 Wed-Thu 11:40-2:05-4:30-7:35-10
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:10-1:35-4:7-9:25 Mon-Tue 4-7-9:25 Wed-Thu 11:10-1:35-4:7-9:25
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sun 10:45-11:25-1:25-2:05-4:05-4:45-6:50-7:25-9:40-10:05 Mon 2:05-4:05-4:45-6:50-7:25-9:40-10:05 Tue 2:05-4:45-7:25-10:05 Wed-Thu 10:45-1:25-4:05-6:50-9:40
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Wed-Thu 10:55-11:25-12:25-2:20-2:50-3:50-5:45-6:45-7:15-9:15-10:10-10:40
Happy Feet Two (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-1:45-4:15 Mon-Tue 4:15 Wed-Thu 11:15-1:45-4:15
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:25-10:20 Mon-Tue 4:30-7:25-10:20 Wed-Thu 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:25-10:20
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-9:55 Mon-Tue 4:35-7:20-9:55
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-5:30-10:15 Mon 5:30-10:15 Tue 5:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 7:10:15 Wed-Thu 11:15-11:45-2:20-3:20-5:25-7-8:30-10:10
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:35-4:40-7:45-10:50 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:45-10:50
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 11:25-2:25-5:7:40-10:15 Mon-Tue 2:25-5:7:40-10:15 Wed 11:25-2:25-5:7:40-10:15 Thu 11:25-2:25-5
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Fri-Sun 10:40-1-3:20-5:40-8:10:30 Mon-Tue 3:20-5:40-8:10:30
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-11-1:15-1:45-4-4:35-6:55-7:30-9:45-10:15 Mon 4-4:35-6:55-7:30-9:45-10:15 Tue 4-4:35-7:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 10:30-1:15-4-6:55-9:45
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sun 10:40-3:15-7:50 Mon 3:15-7:50 Tue 3:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30-11-12:15-1:25-1:55-2:25-4:20-4:50-5:50-7:15-7:45-9:10-10:10-10:40 Mon-Tue 2-2:25-4:20-4:50-5:50-7:15-7:45-9:10-10:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 10:30-11-12:15-1:25-1:55-2:25-4:20-4:50-5:50-7:15-7:45-9:10-10:10-10:40
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sun 10:35-11:05-12:40-1:10-2:45-3:15-4:50-5:20-7:7:30-9:05-9:35 Mon 2:45-3:15-4:50-5:20-7:7:30-9:05-9:35 Tue 2:45-3:15-5:20-7:30-9:35 Wed-Thu 11:05-1:10-3:15-5:20-7:30-9:35
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-2:4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Tue 2:4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 11:15-2:4:40-7:30-10:20
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (18A) Fri-Thu 2:30-4:45-7:10-9:30
The Way (STC) Fri-Sun 10:35-1:20-4:05-7:05-9:50 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:05-9:50
Young Adult (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:10-4:55-7:20-9:55 Mon-Tue 2:10-4:55-7:20-9:55 Wed-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:55-7:20-9:55

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Golden Globe winners, losers

With nominations announced Thursday, The Artist earned the most at six Here's who looks good and who doesn't

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ALL PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Presenters Gerard Butler, left, and Rashida Jones share a laugh before they announced Golden Globe Awards nominations on Thursday.

▶ Ryan Gosling was nominated for two Best Actor awards.

▶ Disney's The Help was nominated for Best Motion Picture Drama.

▶ Steven Spielberg's film War Horse was nominated for Best Motion Picture Drama.

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes, and as usual the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown.

BIGGEST WINNERS

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favourite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, Midnight in Paris, gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen.

And between his acting in The Descendants and directing in The Ides of March, George Clooney will have plenty of reasons to show up.

Ryan Gosling is certainly enjoying his nominations in both Best Actor categories.

As far as sheer numbers, silent film The Artist — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but The Help and The Descendants are close behind at five.

Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, respectively.

BIGGEST SNUBS

The most glaring omission to awards watchers is Stephen Spielberg. Even though his two films, War Horse and The Adventures of Tintin, are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category.

David Fincher might be feeling overlooked as well, as his The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo only pulled in nominations for Trent Reznor's score and Rooney Mara's performance.

British series Downton Abbey, which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.

Also, not a single nomination for British spy thriller Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.

And on the TV side, fans were hoping critical darling Community could pick up some Comedy nominations to help its fight against impending cancellation, but the series was completely overlooked.

BIGGEST SURPRISES

Many had believed Disney would run The Help on the Musical or Comedy side for the Globes, giving the popular hit an easier chance at picking up some trophies, but its inclusion in Drama means presumed Oscar front-runners Viola Davis and Meryl Streep (for The Iron Lady) are going head-to-head earlier than expected.

In TV, the biggest shock has to be the HFPA's apparent love of Ryan Murphy. While a Best Series — Musical or Comedy nod for Glee isn't surprising, the organization apparently flipped for his new less-than-acclaimed horror series, American Horror Story, giving it mentions for Best Series, Drama and Best Supporting Actress for Jessica Lange.

BIGGEST REASON TO WATCH

Aside from the showdown between Streep and Davis, the other big reason to watch is to see what Ricky Gervais does to make the HFPA regret inviting him back as host.

The organization is notorious for its love of celebrities, so, not so surprising are nominations for Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie — her In the Land of Blood and Honey is up for Best Foreign Language Film.

If Johnny Depp shows up to support Best Animated Feature nominee Rango, they'll have done their job.

Mark your calendar

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

Louis C.K. believes in you: Don't pirate his videos

Comedian puts concert video online for people to steal — or voluntarily purchase for five dollars Does his faith in Internet humankind pay off?

CASSANDRA GARRISON
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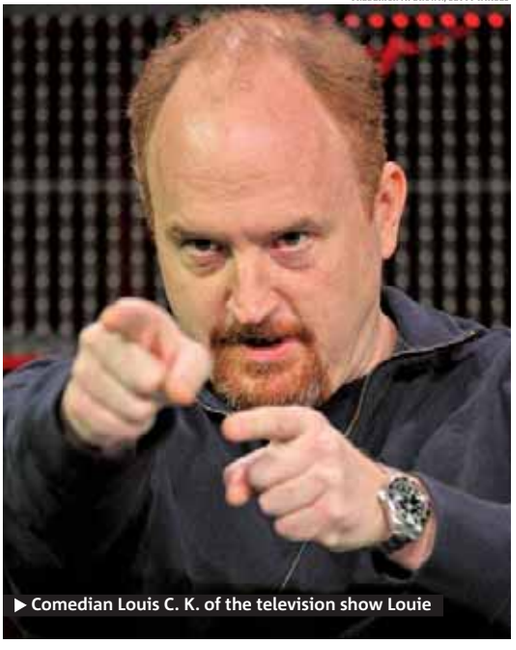
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Comedian Louis C. K. of the television show Louie

Comedian Louis C.K. is a trusting guy. So trusting, that he made his most recent concert video, Live at the Beacon Theater, available for downloading for just five bucks.

He also did not give it any copyright protection, opening the door for unlimited pirating and sharing.

What a sucker, right? Well, maybe not.

Louis C.K., who often jokes about how technology has made us all into jerks, may have been on to something. Apparently, his faith in humankind paid off.

On Thursday morning, Louis posted this message on his website (printed here verbatim):

"The show went on sale at noon on Saturday, December 10th. 12 hours later, we had over 50,000 purchases and had earned $250,000, breaking even on the cost of production and website. As of Today, we've sold over 110,000 copies for a total of over $500,000. Minus some money for PayPal charges etc, I have a profit around $200,000 (after taxes $75.58). This is less than I would have been paid by a large company to simply perform the show and let them sell it to you, but they would have charged you about $20 for the video. They would have given you an encrypted and regionally restricted video of limited value, and they would have owned your private information for their own use. They would have withheld international availability indefinitely. This way, you only paid $5, you can use the video any way you want, and you can watch it in Dublin, whatever the city is in Belgium, or Dubai. I got paid nice, and I still own the video (as do you). You never have to join anything, and you never have to hear from us again. I really hope people keep buying it a lot, so I can have s—loads of money, but at this point I think we can safely say that the experiment really worked. If anybody stole it, it wasn't many of you. Pretty much everybody bought it. And so now we all get to know that about people and stuff."

Imagine that — the lot of us might have a soul, after all. Rumour has it, Live at the Beacon Theater is well worth the five bucks.

Turns out people were more than happy to restrain themselves from being thieving Internet scoundrels, at least for a few days.

$200K Amount of profit Louis C.K. says he made from sales of Live at the Beacon Theater.

TV picks

Cosy up with Christmas TV

FROSTY FARE. With a week to go until Christmas Eve it's no surprise that there's a bevy of holiday fare on Saturday.

For some, there's no better than It's a Wonderful Life, which is on Bravo!, although kids may prefer Frosty the Snowman and Frosty Returns on CBS, or Home Alone 2: Lost in New York on YTV.

Stephen's greetings

KING, THAT IS. If you're seeking an escape from the wall-to-wall Christmas programming bombarding the dial on Friday night, there's the first part of Bag of Bones, a two-part miniseries based on the Stephen King book. It's about an author who communicates with his late wife's spirit while staying in a haunted house. (A&E)

Swedish secrets

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO. The American film adaptation of The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo is set to hit theatres next week but the Swedish version is on Friday. Running two-and-a-half-hours long, it'll fill a good chunk of your evening. The second and third parts air on Saturday and Sunday. (MXS)

Lampooning the festivities

REVISIT 1989. Of all the Christmas movies on Sunday, CBC has one of the better ones with National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. The 1989 comedy still stands up well after all these years.

The tribe has spoken

LAST ONE STANDING. The 23rd season of Survivor concludes Sunday, and will be followed by a reunion show with the contestants rehashing the season in the South Pacific. (Global)

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Who says there's nothing good on TV?

Star-packed series from Debra Messing, Don Cheadle and Kiefer Sutherland heat TV's winter lineup ◐ And Charlie Sheen set to return to the small screen

The new year promises a wave of returning TV favourites and buzzy rookie series, with most of the big U.S. networks expected to roll out ambitious, star-packed fare that includes a comedy with Don Cheadle and Kristen Bell, a slick musical drama from Debra Messing and Anjelica Huston, a new thriller starring Kiefer Sutherland and the return of bad boy Charlie Sheen.

The big broadcasters typically unleash their hottest shows in the fall but they've saved a lot of sizzle for the colder months of the year, says Barbara Williams, Shaw Media's senior vice president of content who oversees programming for channels including Global, Showcase and History Television.

"Right across the board you're seeing very big, powerful series coming in the midseason."

"You can't expect viewers to just be there with you in the fall and then hang in through repeats and stuff and then be back with you again in the fall. Our viewers are more demanding that that."

Big titles across the dial include the Cheadle-led ensemble comedy House of Lies, a Showtime series bound for Canada's Movie Central/The Movie Network on Jan. 9.

"We've called it our staff pick internally — we're pretty excited about that one," says Maria Hale, head of TV programming and production for Corus, which oversees Movie Central/HBO Canada.

"It has a great cast, first and foremost. And it's looking at the business of management consulting from sort of a comedic reality perspective. I think that's going to make it quite engaging."

And speculation is high on whether Lost mastermind J.J. Abrams can strike TV gold again with his upcoming time-travelling mind-bender, Alcatraz.

Comparisons to his island-bound hit are inevitable, with Lost star Jorge Garcia and Lost writer Elizabeth Sarnoff also on board the new project. The sprawling Vancouver-shot mystery debuts Jan. 16 on Citytv and Fox with a two-hour premiere that sets up an eerie premise: an Alcatraz prisoner who died 30 years ago suddenly reappears, youthful as ever.

Meanwhile, Messing stars in NBC's Broadway serial Smash, also airing on CTV, but this is no happy-go-lucky Glee-inspired crowd-pleaser.

The mature drama centres on a songwriting duo who attempt to mount a Marilyn Monroe musical while wrestling with marital woes. An A-list cast includes Huston, Broadway stars Brian d'Arcy James, Megan Hilty and Christian Borle and American Idol near-winner Katharine McPhee as a young ingenue.

Meanwhile, Sheen returns to CTV with the FX show Anger Management, based on the hit film of the same name. No air date has been set in Canada but FX has said they expect to make a U.S. debut in the summer.

Even though Anger Management is bound for an edgy specialty channel south of the border, Cosentino says it's been pitched as a broad comedy suitable for CTV.

"I have a lot of detail on the series bible and everything else, enough to get us comfortable from a creative and a concept point of view," he says of the show, set to return Sheen to prime time after his sensational ousting from Two and a Half Men, also on CTV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canuck wives

On the reality front, Slice's The Real Housewives of Vancouver will rival the drama of its U.S. counterparts, says Shaw Media executive Barbara Williams.

West coast divas? "A lot of people were kind of wondering if Canada has those kinds of housewives," says Williams. "It lives up to the brand, I would say. Who knew?"

HELEN SLOAN/HBO-THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS/

▶ Jason Momoa portrays Khal Drogo in a scene from Game of Thrones. The show returns to HBO Canada next year.

JAE HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mad Men is also back on TV in 2012. Pictured is cast member Christina Hendricks.

MITCHELL HAASETH/NBC UNIVERSAL-THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The gang from 30 Rock will be back in the new year: Alec Baldwin as Jack Donaghy, left, Tina Fey as Liz Lemon and Tracy Morgan as Tracy Jordan.

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Return of the mack

J.R. deals again as original cast members filming reboot to popular series

J.R. Ewing has returned to Dallas.

With Larry Hagman reprising his role as the conniving Texas oilman, filming is underway at locations all over the city for TNT's new television series Dallas, which will also see the return of Patrick Duffy as J.R.'s brother Bobby and Linda Gray as J.R.'s ex-wife Sue Ellen, along with a new generation of Ewings.

And, of course, the spotlight also returns to the city itself, with its distinctive skyline rising from the prairie.

"We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality," said location manager John Patterson, adding, "It's a city that does things in a big way. That's part of J.R. and part of what we try to give the show — a sense of the city, which is big, very well done, shiny, new and looking toward the future."

TNT has ordered 10 episodes of the series, set to air in summer 2012.

Filming for the series, entirely shot in Dallas, began mid-October and is expected to wrap in late January.

"There was just no way we were going to film anywhere else," said executive producer Cynthia Cidre, who also wrote the pilot for the new series, a "mix of the old world and the new world."

The original series, which aired from 1978 to 1991, enjoyed popularity around the world as viewers tuned in to watch the scheming Ewing family.

As the plot twisted and turned season after season, the series contributed to some of TV's most memorable moments.

After Bobby died in a season cliffhanger in 1985 after being hit by a car, the entire next season was revealed to have been a prolonged dream sequence when his former wife, with whom he had reconciled, wakes up to find him alive, taking a shower.

The 1986-87 season then mark's Duffy's return to the cast after a year-long absence.

And, of course, there was the cliffhanger in 1980 that left the whole world in suspense.

The catchphrase "Who shot J.R.?" became part of the common vernacular as viewers waited to find out who had fired on J.R.

When viewers tuned in for the answer on Nov. 21, 1980, the shooter was revealed to be J.R.'s vengeful mistress, who was also his sister-in-law.

That episode was seen by more people than any TV program in history up until that time.

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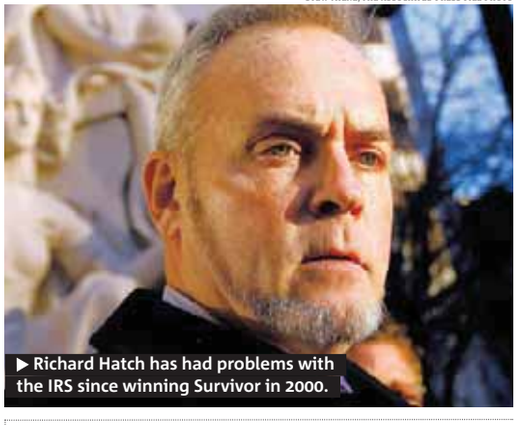
"We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality. It's a city that does things in a big way."
JOHN PATTERSON, DALLAS LOCATION MANAGER,

Survivor champ 'hatches' new scheme

Fresh out of prison, Richard Hatch eyes TV series about his relationship with his sperm donation children

STEW MILNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO



▶ Richard Hatch has had problems with the IRS since winning Survivor in 2000.

Terms of release

- Hatch remains on supervised release for the next two years and two months. Under the terms of his release, Hatch must pay 25 per cent of his gross income to the IRS to pay off his taxes for 2000 and 2001, court records show. He also cannot leave the country without court permission.

Reality star Richard Hatch, who was freed this week from prison on a tax evasion sentence tied to his $1 million Survivor winnings, said Tuesday that he is hoping for a new reality show about his relationship with the children conceived from his sperm donations.

Hatch, 50, was released Monday from prison for violating the terms of his supervised release in the long-running case.

Hatch maintains his innocence and says he does not owe money to the Internal Revenue Service.

"Here I am, subjected to something that can only be described as institutionalized bullying," said Hatch, who spent nine months in prisons in five states.

Hatch won the inaugural season of the show in 2000. He was convicted in 2006 of two counts of attempted tax evasion and one count of signing a false tax return.

He was released from prison in 2009 but ordered to return after a federal judge ruled he failed to file amended income tax returns for 2000 and 2001.

Shortly before returning to prison in March, Hatch, who lives in Rhode Island, said he met a 22-year-old biological son who is living in New Jersey.

Hatch said he met the man, whom he identified only as Devin, through the Sibling Donor Registry, which helps connect donors and children.

They took a DNA test to confirm their genetic ties, he said.

Hatch said another biological child, whom he identified as a 22-year-old Maine woman named Emily, visited him in prison.

"It was additionally challenging to be wrongfully imprisoned knowing that these children were coming forward," Hatch said.

"I told the court that beforehand. I explained this is a fascinating time in my life when I was at a place where I wanted to get to know these people who are my children who have come forward and want to get to know me."

He also views the show as a way to help the public understand the relationships between offspring and donors.

"The offspring want connections with their biological donors because of all kinds of varying reasons from health to emotional to whatever they are," said Hatch.

Hatch said a production company was involved in plans for a TV series about his encounters with his children but that no plans have been finalized.

He declined to name the production company.

Hatch also has an adopted son, who attends the University of Rhode Island.

Hatch's discovery is one of the most interesting encountered by Wendy Kramer, executive director and co-founder of the Sibling Donor Registry.

Kramer said she's known Hatch for years and that they have discussed working on a television project together.

Hatch said he has no regrets about participating in Survivor and would like to compete in The Amazing Race, which also airs on CBS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From humble beginnings

Black Box Revelation is finding that their hard work is starting to pay off Find out how they did it

LINDA LABAN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN BOSTON

If all goes to plan, by the end of this month, Black Box Revelation will have a bona fide album released in North America.

In the meantime, the pair's Shiver of Joy EP is out on all formats, including limited-edition coloured vinyl; just in time for them to capitalize on it during their tour with Beady Eye.

"It's cool to have our music out here in the States and in our hands. I like it when you can open it up and see what's inside. Like Christmas presents, no?" vocalist and guitarist Jan Paternoster says. "It shows that the label is enthusiastic."

The Belgian garage rock duo's 2007 debut, Set Your Head On Fire, fell foul to label troubles and last year's Silver Threads was only issued on iTunes.

"Getting your music on iTunes, it's not that hard to do," Paternoster says.

Shiver of Joy collects old and new songs from the forthcoming My Perception LP and reveals strong American roots: Ramonesy rawness, early Strokes sultriness and, on the beautiful rambling closing epic Sealed With Thorns, a hint of the group Television.

"We've been playing for five years now; we've got more experience. Because of that, we started improvising more, especially in that song. You hear it in the end. We just kept on playing and playing and didn't care how long a song is supposed to be. It was about a great moment."

"It's cool to have our music out here in the States and in our hands. I like it when you can open it up and see what's inside. Like Christmas presents, no? It shows that the label is enthusiastic."
JAN PATERNOSTER

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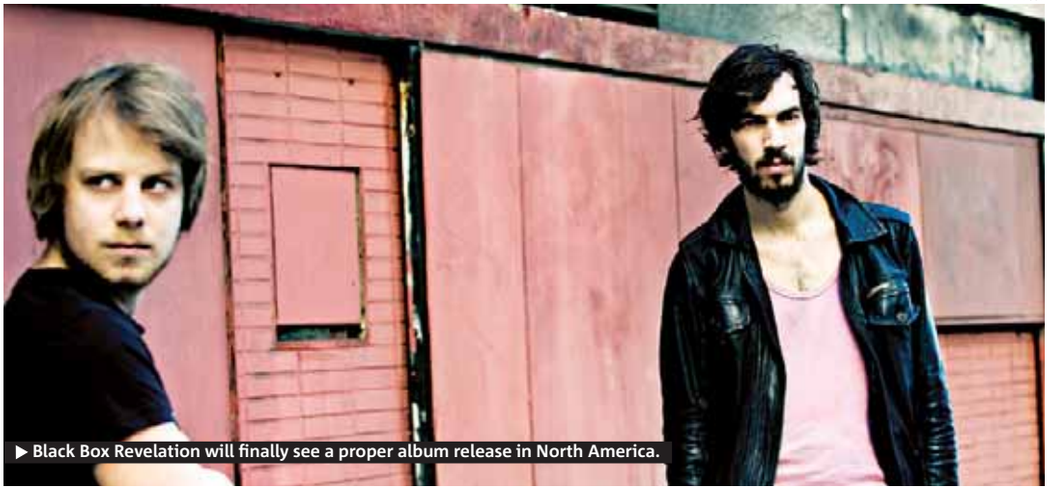

▶ Black Box Revelation will finally see a proper album release in North America.

Paternoster

Black Box Revelation spent most of 2011 recording and touring in the U.S.

Paternoster quote: "We recorded the new album in Los Angeles with Alain Johannes," Paternoster says, referring to the producer. "We had a really amazing time with him, playing music and recording when we felt like it. Sealed With Thorns was recorded there. For us, it's more important to catch the moment and get a good vibe in the song."

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A very Jersey Christmas

Creators of Broadway musical Jersey Boys shake things up with a CD of holiday songs

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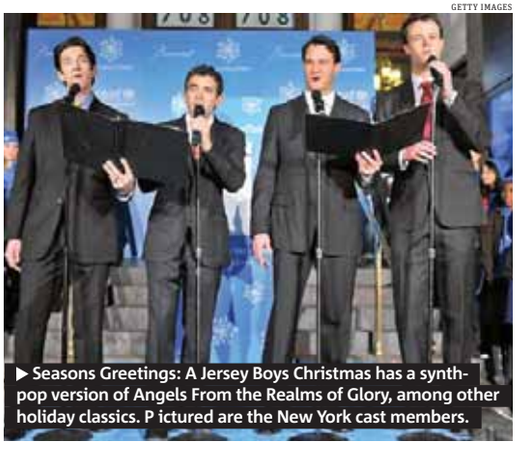

▶ Seasons Greetings: A Jersey Boys Christmas has a synth-pop version of Angels From the Realms of Glory, among other holiday classics. P ictured are the New York cast members.

For the Broadway fan on your Christmas list, why not consider a little touch of Jersey?

Cast members from various Jersey Boys productions across the country have recorded a selection of Christmas classics in the style of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

The eclectic CD ranges from the spiritual Rise Up, Shepherd, to a doo-wop version of White Christmas, to a synth-pop version of Angels From the Realms of Glory to a medley of Santa songs with those signature Jersey Boys harmonies.

"It's probably not going to be what some fans expect," said Bob Gaudio, a founding member of The Four Seasons and the group's principal songwriter. "It's not all Jingle Bell Rock. But that's why it's fun."

The album — Seasons Greetings: A Jersey Boys Christmas from Rhino Entertainment — is one of a crop of new CDs out this season with a Broadway connection, including cast albums from Elf, Follies, Anything Goes and Godspell.

Recording the Jersey Boys holiday album was a logistical puzzle since it

combines performances from six stars in the various show casts — Joseph Leo Bwarie from the U.S. national tour, Travis Cloer and Rick Faugno from the Las Vegas cast, Bobby Fox from the Australia show, Ryan Molloy from the London cast and Jarrod Spector, currently on Broadway.

John Lloyd Young, who won the 2006 Tony Award in the original Broadway production, also sings a few songs. Most of the performers had to record their portion in a single day after flying to a recording studio in Nashville, Tenn.

The CD is a clever way to further the reach of a franchise whose staying power continues to wow even its creators more than six years after debuting on Broadway. A second U.S. national tour has begun and a new production starts up in New Zealand in April. A holiday CD is a logical extension.

"It's one of those privileges that comes to shows that have these kinds of rare runs," said Michael David, a Jersey Boys producer.

"You can think beyond how are we going next week and begin to think of a future that's longer than the traditional tenure of Broadway shows."

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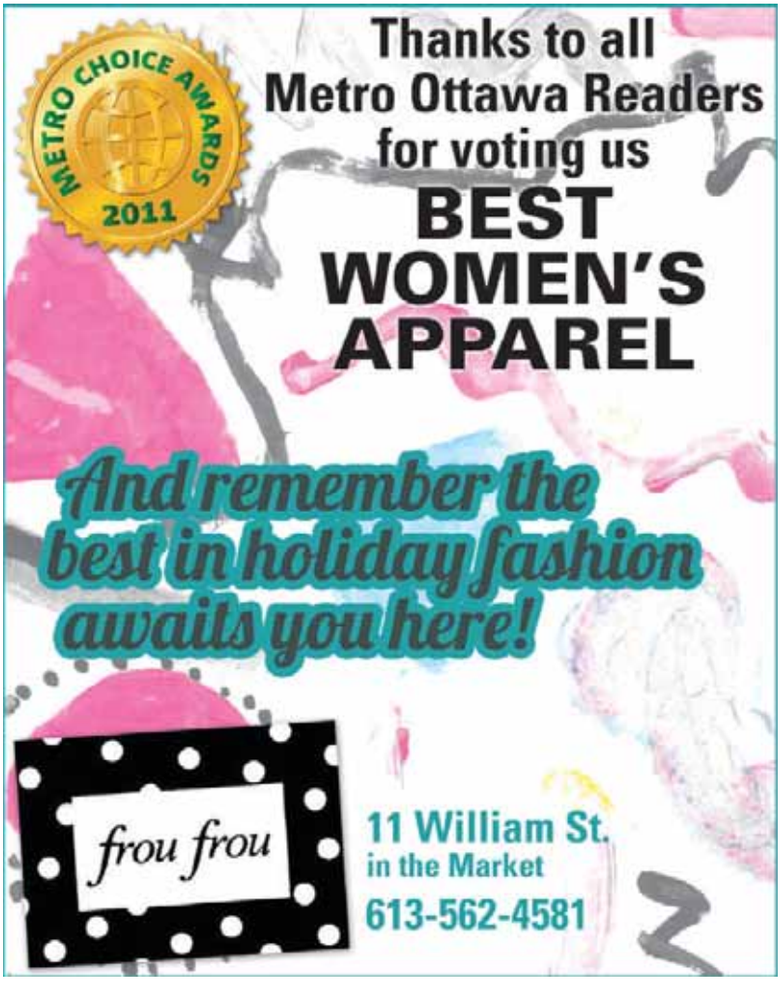

Success 'beyond anyone's wildest dreams'

Arcade Fire coming off monumental year Triumphs continue to bring attention to Montreal music scene

It was a year in which Arcade Fire burned brightly.

The coveted Grammy Award for Album of the Year, honouring their latest release The Suburbs, kicked off a slew of honours won by the Montreal-based indie band in 2011.

By the end of the year, they had also swept the same categories at the Juno, Polaris and Brit awards, and taken home anglophone album of the year from Quebec's L'Autre Gala de L'ADISQ.

After giving an international shout-out to their Montreal hometown at the Grammys, they also found time to say thanks to their local fans in September with a free outdoor show downtown, which packed in around 100,000 people.

And that gratitude is about to continue into the new year as the band says they will invest in helping young artists while also working on their next undisclosed recording project.

"Their success has gone beyond anyone's wildest dreams — even them, I believe," says Dan Seligman, the creative director and co-founder of the Pop Montreal indie music festival, which hosted the outdoor concert.

Seligman, who has booked the band often during the 10 years of his festival and in other gigs, says any attention Arcade Fire gets benefits the local music scene.

"The hope is that it'll continue to help other bands get attention and become successful, touring musicians and have careers."

The award haul sparked a brief amplification of the buzz around the band, which first drew the indie scene's spotlight to Montreal around 2004-2005 with the release of their first album, Funeral.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Arcade Fire pose with their trophies at the 2011 Juno Awards earlier this year.

Leah Greenblatt, a senior editor at New York-based Entertainment Weekly magazine, said that even though they had been around for a while, Arcade Fire's Grammy win caused jaws to drop. Even the band looked stunned as TV cameras caught their reaction.

"I was shocked," Greenblatt said, noting that many independent artists had until then often been ghettoized into 'alternative' music categories.

"It sort of forced a lot of people to sit up and listen and maybe pay a little more attention to what was happening in the smaller circles of music."

MUSIC CRITIC STEVE GUIMOND ON ARCADE FIRE'S 2011 AWARD HAUL

"In some sense it was a really old-fashioned record because it was sort of open about being ambitious and thematic. They weren't too cool to try. They were trying to make a big record, and they succeeded."

Arcade Fire declined requests to discuss their big year. Their publicist said they were taking a break after a gruelling tour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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8 modern Hanukkah songs

MIKE DOJC
2FORCOUPLES.COM
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

While the songbook for Judaism's festival of lights still lags well behind Christmas, the holiday has been punching above its weight class in recent years. Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song, originally performed on SNL's Weekend Update in 1994, really got the wax spinning on the modern age of Hanukkah tuneage. Get your Hanukkah groove on with one modern track for each night of the celebration.

1. CANDLELIGHT
by Maccabeats
This clever parody of Dynamite by Taio Cruz has racked up more than 5.7 million views on YouTube. The Maccabeats, an a cappella group composed of students from New York's Yeshiva University, have performed at Madison Square Garden and The White House.

2. MIRACLE
by Matisyahu
The Hasidic reggae star known for his prodigious beat-boxing skills brings us a sweet and spiritual holiday ballad. And in the video, Matisyahu showcases his lighter side by getting hip-checked on a skating rink and having a surreal daydream where he tangles with King Antiochus, some random hockey goons and the Nutcracker.

3. LONELY JEW ON CHRISTMAS
by Trey Parker
Kyle Broflovski's tender yet occasionally potty-mouthed tour de force from South Park's famous Mr. Hankey, the Christmas Poo episode from season one. Thanks to Kyle and Mr. Hankey, the denizens of the fictional Colorado town learn that Christmas and Chanukah can coexist.

4. HOW DO YOU SPELL CHAN-

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▶ South Park has their own take on the tunes.

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They can Dø no wrong

PAT HEALY
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN BOSTON

Both Ways Open Jaws, the recently released album by The Dø, enters through a rare window in time where it will probably make a lot of music publications' and Internet Best of 2011 lists.

Then when writers who don't put them on that list see that some of their peers have chosen it, the French duo's album will inevitably make their 'ones to watch' in 2012 lists.

This album is the second for The Dø. With their debut, A Mouthful, they became the first English-speaking French act to top the charts in their homeland.

"I spoke Finnish and French when I started speaking," says Merilahti.

"Then I just listened to so many different (English-speaking/writing) singers and I really wanted to know what the songs were about, so I always read the booklets very carefully and wanted to learn the words I didn't know. That's how I built my vocabulary."

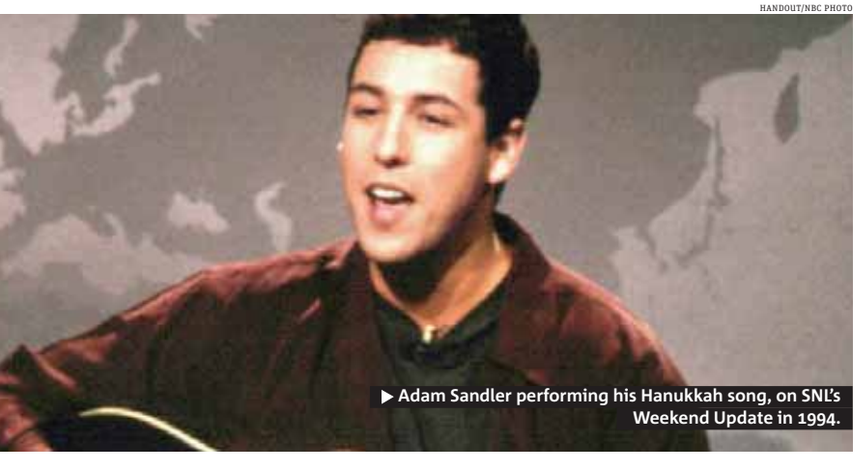
Despite the language gap, the music remains very open and has an ability to relate to listeners and draw them in.

"I really have a certain distance with the lyrics and they're all so very intimate," she says.

"It's very difficult for me to describe."

▶ Singer Olivia Bouyssou Merilahti of The Dø

HANDOUT/NBC PHOTO



▶ Adam Sandler performing his Hanukkah song, on SNL's Weekend Update in 1994.

NUKKAHH?
by The LeeVees
The holiday is spelled a few ways, with Hanukkah and Chanukah being the most popular. This is the most memorable track off 2005's Hanukkah Rocks album, a collaboration between Guster's Adam Gardner and The Zambonis' Dave Schneider.

5. FEAST OF LIGHTS
by They Might Be Giants
These quirky indie rock darlings known for the catchy geek anthems Birdhouse In Your Soul and Malcolm in the Middle theme song Boss Of Me concoct a downbeat ode to the holiday blahs.

6. MEMORIES OF A WINTER'S NIGHT
by David Koz
The lone instrumental Chanukah track on our list comes courtesy of butter-smooth saxophone player Koz, the heir apparent to Kenny G. The twinkling piano and vibrant sax solos are very seasonal

7. HANUKKAH BLESSINGS by Barenaked Ladies
One of a trio of Hanukkah tracks on BNL's Barenaked for the Holidays album from 2004. On this earnest medley, Stephen Page weaves both of Hanukkah's candle-lighting blessings into the song, adding religious heft to the tune.

8. LOVE YOU BETTER
by The Maccabees
While these Brighton-based Brit-poppers claim they picked their band name by randomly skimming the Bible, by adopting the namesake of the heroes of Chanukah, the small yet determined Jewish rebel army who rose up against their Syrian-Greek oppressors, their music is certainly holiday appropriate.

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PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES

Their name

Why Dø they call themselves that?

▶ **What's in a name** The Dø pronounce their name like 'dough' as in the first note of the solfège scale, as in do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do. But what is that little slash through the o? "We just wanted it to look like a note, like when you write music in music theory," says Merilahti. "It really looks like a musical symbol."

There are hints of influences all over Both Ways Open Jaws, but instead of rattling them off as reference points, we gave Merilahti a chance to confirm or deny them.

▶ **Did you listen to Stereolab growing up?** No, not at all, and someone told me about them a couple of days ago. They said, 'You should tour with Stereolab if they still played together,' or something. Maybe Dan has, but I'm not sure.

▶ **How about Radiohead?** It's kind of a late reference for both of us. ... Dan didn't listen to many songs when he was younger. He was more into instrumental and 20th century classical music or jazz, and I was always like, 'Oh everyone's listening to Radiohead,' so I wouldn't. ... But it's kind of impossible to ignore.

● PAT HEALY/METRO BOSTON

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With a week to go, what do you get the music fan on your list?

Here's what I'm hoping to find under the tree. Not that I'm hinting or anything…

Bob Marley headphones
Everyone from Dr. Dre on down seems to get into the celebrity-endorsed headphone game. The new Positive Vibration headphones from the House of Marley sound good and are reasonably priced. They also come in a variety of colour schemes including Rasta. (thehouseofmarley.com)

Deluxe edition of The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo Soundtrack
Yes, there is life beyond Nine Inch Nails. After winning an Oscar for the soundtrack for The Social Network, Trent Reznor and partner Atticus Ross wrote the music for the Hollywood version of Stieg Larsson's best-selling novel. You can spend as little as $12 for a download or $300 for this deluxe edition featuring CDs, vinyl and autographs in an ornate box. Yes, I said $300. (nullco.com/GDT/)

Electronic Rock Guitar Shirt
It looks like a regular T-shirt with a guitar on the front.

The difference is that you can actually play this guitar. Each button on the neck corresponds to a major chord so anyone can play it. It even comes with an amp that you clip to your belt. Endless fun for about $20. (thinkgeek.com)

Giant Boombox Dock for iPod/iPhone
Remember the '80s when everyone carried around cassette players the size of suitcases that weighed as much as a small child? Now you can relive those backaches with an i-dock that needs 6D batteries. And it's just $200. (ihomeaudio.com/iP4ZC)

Ramones Throbbleheads
They're just like bobbleheads except cooler. Start with the Ramones and move on to other figures from the golden age of punk. You can't go wrong for $11 each. (aggronautix.com)

Drummer T-Shirts
If you don't count all those accordion lessons I took as a kid, my instrument is the drums.

A site called Drumbum offers all kinds of gifts for drummers and other musicians. I'm hoping for the More Cowbell T-shirt. And just $20, too. (store.drumbum.com)

Pod Power
If you're into music, chances are you have all kinds of electronic gear with those this bulky power bricks that are tough to plug into standard power strips. Why did it take so long to invent something as simple and as useful as this? For $35, I'll take half a dozen. (quirky.com)

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SSE 2011-1349

Simple songs make for major hits

AMA's new artists of the year Hot Chelle Rae lay the groundwork for longevity by focusing on the fundamentals

It's easy to get a Hot Chelle Rae song stuck in your head. It's not so easy to write one.

The breezy lyrics and infectious melodies that have come to define the pop band might seem simple, but guitarist Nash Overstreet says there's an art to coming up with uncomplicated hooks that compel everyone to sing along.

"When you really get into it and you investigate the whole writing craft, you realize how difficult it is to write something so simple and so memorable that everybody in the country can know it as soon as you sing two lines from it," said Overstreet, 25.

"We've learned so much through this process, honing that skill and learning from producers and co-writers. We've just had a ball doing it."

Swift success

Being exposed to the vibrant music community in Nashville has proved beneficial for the group.

- Ryan and Overstreet met country crossover star Taylor Swift in 2009 when they co-wrote and produced the rap spoof Thug Story she performed with T-Pain for the CMT Music Awards.
- This summer, Hot Chelle Rae got a major boost when Swift asked them to be special guests at one of her four arena shows in Los Angeles.

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song," added drummer Jamie Follese, 19. "I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Hot Chelle Rae will be headlining their own Beautiful Freaks tour starting in February.

The four friends from Nashville, Tenn., formed Hot Chelle Rae six years ago. They burst onto the scene this year, selling over 2 million copies of their smash hit Tonight Tonight, and dominating radio airplay with their follow-up single I Like It Like That.

They've been touring non-stop and were recently named new artist of the year at the American Music Awards. The band released their new sophomore album, Whatever, on Nov. 29.

Whatever includes collaborations with hip-hop duo New Boyz on I Like It Like That, Demi Lovato on the ballad Why Don't You Love Me, and rapper/producer Bei Maejor on the song Radio.

Maejor thinks fans are connecting with Hot Chelle Rae's music because they push the limits and use strong, familiar melodies.

"I heard a quote before ... 'Simplicity is the essence of elegance.' That means that simple is dope," said Maejor.

"There's definitely a hard line between making it simple and catchy and simple and stupid, and I think they definitely make it simple and catchy."

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song. I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."
DRUMMER JAMIE FOLLESE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A gem of a year for Neil Diamond

Legendary singer releases new best-of album on the heels of becoming a Kennedy Center Honoree

Neil Diamond has been a hit maker for more than four decades, but the 70-year-old singer-songwriter says that when he's alone in his studio, he sometimes wonders who will hear his music.

The answer, of course, is almost everyone, as evidenced by a stellar year that saw the Sweet Caroline singer inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, become a Kennedy Center Honoree, earn his 13th Grammy nod and release a career-spanning collection of greatest hits.

The Very Best of Neil Diamond, featuring 23 songs, was released last week, just after he returned from the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Neil Diamond

Diamond is planning a North American tour to support the album next year, and he's also planning to marry his love, Katie O'Neil.

Diamond said 2011 has "definitely been one of the best years ever."

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up."
NEIL DIAMOND

The Kennedy Center celebrations were a high point for the singer.

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up for Christmas and I got the chance to bring my kids with me and three of my older grandkids, who all had the chance to say hello to the President and Mrs. Obama, and they were of course thrilled," Diamond said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Eastwood doing reality TV? Please say it ain't so

Actor's family set to star in show produced by makers of Kardashian series

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The news that Clint Eastwood and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all Dirty Harry on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network (editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people).

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife Dina Eastwood, their daughter Morgan and Clint's 18-year-old daughter Francesca. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the Kardashian shows.

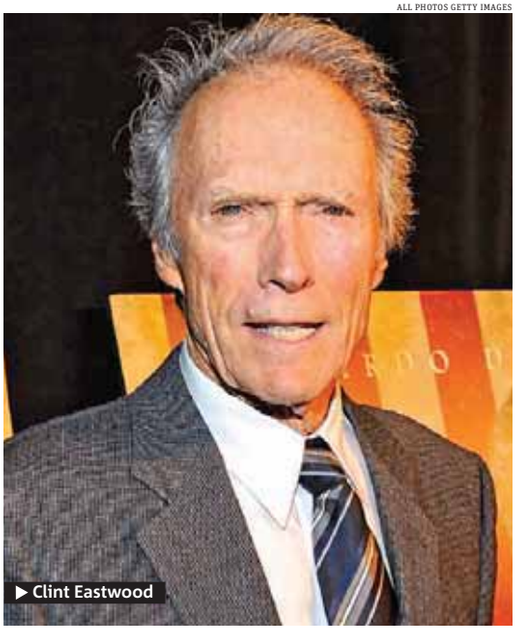
Honestly, folks, let's just give up.

Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it.

It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress (second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress).

Come on, Clint. You starred in Gran Torino — please don't go down without a fight.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



▶ Clint Eastwood

Celebrity tweets

@SteveMartinToGo

Trivia: In the Jerk, after we sing "Tonight, You Belong to Me," when I stand up you can hear a crack as I step on the ukulele.

@BettyBuckley

My absolutely "nothing" day! Ahhhh. But maybe I'll start the Michael Connelly book. I am so excited about all the new movies comin' out!

@pennjillette

I don't ever touch my hair unless I'm going on stage. I don't look in mirrors. This is the way I look. I'll try to remember to smile

@SethMacFarlane

I wonder what President the corporations are gonna buy us next year!

Miley says her twins are real

Miley Cyrus

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, Miley Cyrus is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery.

"Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims.

"I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

METRO

Suri Cruise rakes it in for Christmas

▶ Suri Cruise

Suri Cruise doesn't skimp when it comes to asking for things from Santa.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter reportedly has a Christmas list of items that total $130,000, according to In Touch Weekly.

Topping the 5-year-old's list are a pony, diamond earrings and gowns that will make her look "like a fairy princess," according to the magazine.

And Cruise has reportedly already found a stable in Beverly Hills for the pony.

"Tom and Katie love the holidays and always go overboard," a source says.

"Suri is very mature and knows what she wants."

METRO

Put wine love into words

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

When I was a young wine expert in training, there was no Internet. If you wanted to learn anything about anything, you had to look it up in a book.

Back in the day there wasn't a wine scribe more famous than Hugh Johnson — a gregarious Brit with a casual way of delivery on vino that paved the way for today's first person blogger culture.

Johnson is still writing up a storm with his Pocket Wine Book 2012 (Mitchell Beazley, $16.99), the undisputed bible for any wine lover on the go. Ever the literary entrepreneur, this year he's created a Wine Journal (Mitchell Beazley, $17.99) that will allow vinophiles to write their own reviews and keep track of what they're putting in their mouths.

The journal would make a great Christmas gift, especially when paired with a wine worth writing about. France's Père Anselme La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape ($35.49 - $39.50) is a non-vintage blend of up to 13 grapes with a rustic, dark fruited personality perfect for holiday drinking. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Get sweet on Hanukkah

Bake up some delicious treats inspired by the upcoming Jewish holiday

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe makes 24 large of 48 small Sufganiyot.

Preparation:

1. In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In small saucepan over medium, heat milk until steaming. Remove pan from heat and add buttermilk. Pour mix into bowl of stand mixer fitted with dough hook. Whisk in yeast and sugar. Let stand 5 mins.
2. Coat large bowl with vegetable oil; set aside.
3. Add flour mix to milk mix and mix on low until dry ingredients are moistened and form ball, about 3 mins. Increase speed to medium and continue mixing 2 mins. Dough will be quite sticky. Transfer dough to prepared bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside in a draft-free spot. Let rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour.
4. Fill deep sauté pan with 7.5 cm (3 inches) of oil. Heat over medium to 190 C (375 F). Line large plate with paper towels.
5. Lightly flour clean work surface. Turn dough out onto surface. Dust top of dough with flour, press to flatten. Fold dough in half and tuck ends under to create a ball. Dust with flour again and use rolling pin to roll dough into roughly a 28-by-43-cm (11-by-17-inch) rectangle about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.
6. Using sharp knife, cut dough lengthwise into 4 equal strips, then cut horizontally, at angle, to create 24 or 48 diamond-shaped pieces.
7. Working in batches, carefully drop pieces of dough into hot oil, being careful not to crowd pan. Fry, turning often with slotted spoon, until puffed and golden, 2 mins. Transfer to plate to drain while frying remaining Sufganiyot. Fill or top as desired. Serve warm, dusted with powdered sugar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 1 l plus 50 ml (4 1/4 cups) bread flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) buttermilk
- 20 ml (4 tsp) dry active yeast
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) sugar
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

Fillings

To fill the Sufganiyot, use either a syringe-like pastry filling tool or slice open one side with a paring knife and use a spoon.

- A few slices of fresh banana and a generous spoonful of hot fudge.
- Ricotta cheese mixed with chopped walnuts, golden raisins and a drizzle of honey.
- Cream cheese topped with some chunky strawberry jam.
- A chocolate-nut spread (such as Nutella), topped with chopped peanuts and marshmallow spread.

3 life

Sufganiyot tips

- Be patient and give the yeast dough plenty of time to rise, wrapped in plastic in the refrigerator.
- If you want to be really traditional, use extra-virgin olive oil for frying.
- Use a frying thermometer to monitor the oil temperature. Cool oil will give you greasy results.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan this code for a Hanukkah recipe for coffee and porter braised brisket.

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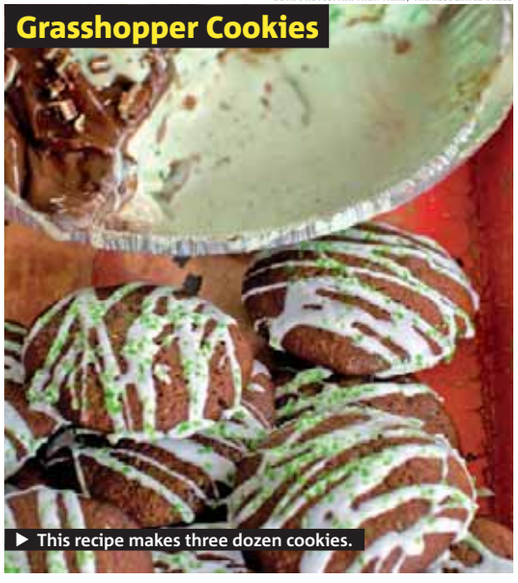
New cookie generation

These tasty treats have their origins in Grasshopper Pie and tiramisu, a classic Italian dessert

BOTH PHOTOS: MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grasshopper Cookies



▶ This recipe makes three dozen cookies.

Grasshopper Cookies Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In microwave-safe bowl, combine chocolate and butter. Heat on high for 2 mins., stirring every 20 seconds, until smooth and completely melted. Whisk in eggs, one at a time, then the brown and granulated sugars. Add 5 ml (1 tsp) of the peppermint extract.
2. Stir in flour mix, then chocolate mint candies. Refrigerate dough until completely chilled, about 2 hours.
3. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or spray with cooking spray.
4. Scoop cookie dough by tablespoonful onto prepared baking sheets, leaving 5 cm (2 inches) between for spreading. Bake for 12 mins. Allow to cool on baking sheet 5 mins. before using spatula to transfer to rack to cool completely.
5. In bowl, whisk powdered sugar, milk or cream, and the remaining 5 ml (1 tsp) peppermint extract. Additional milk can be added if mix is too thick to drizzle. Drizzle icing over surface of cookies and immediately sprinkle with green sprinkles.
6. Allow icing to harden before storing in an airtight container between sheets of waxed paper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 325 ml (1 1/3 cup) all-purpose flour
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 375 ml (12 ounces) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 125 ml (1/2 cup or 1 stick) unsalted butter
- 4 eggs
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) each packed brown and granulated sugar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) peppermint extract, divided
- 130 gram (4.67-ounce) box Andes Creme de Menthe Thins candies, broken into pieces
- 250 ml (1 cup) powdered sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) green sprinkles

Tiramisu Drops Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In food processor, pulse almonds and granulated sugar until finely ground but not reduced to paste. Add butter and vanilla, then pulse to incorporate. Add espresso or coffee powder, salt and flour and pulse until a crumbly dough comes together.
3. Shape dough into 2.5-cm (1-inch) balls and place on prepared baking sheets. Using finger press indent into top of each cookie. Bake 10 to 12 mins., or until golden and firm. Allow to cool on the baking sheet.
4. When cookies are cool, in bowl stir mascarpone and 30 ml (2 tbsp) powdered sugar. Transfer mix to pastry bag or a zip-close plastic bag with the corner snipped off. Pipe dollop of filling into the indent of each cookie.
5. Sift remaining 15 ml (1 tbsp) of powdered sugar with the cocoa powder. Sift over tops of cookies. Decorate with shaved chocolate, if desired.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

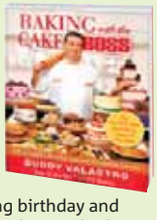
Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) slivered blanched almonds, lightly toasted
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) granulated sugar
- 175 ml (3/4 cup or 1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla extract
- 10 ml (2 tsp) instant espresso or coffee powder
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- 425 ml (1 3/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 250 ml (8-ounce) tub mascarpone cheese
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) powdered sugar, divided
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cocoa powder
- Shaved chocolate, to decorate, if desired

Tiramisu Drops

▶ This recipe makes 40 cookies.

Bake just like Buddy



With more than 100 of his most sought-after recipes, including birthday and holiday cakes, and other special theme designs, Buddy Valastro's recently released book, Baking With the Cake Boss, is a master course that culminates in the showstopping cakes for which Carlo's Bake Shop is famous.

The star of TLC's Cake Boss, Valastro offers readers the same on-the-job education earned by everyone who comes to work at Carlo's Bake Shop, with some of Buddy's and the family's memories shared along the way. Also assisting you in the kitchen are 650 gorgeous, step-by-step instructional photos that let you follow Buddy as if you were next to him in the bakery.

The book builds organically from simple cookies and pastries to pies, flower-adorned cupcakes, and basic fondant cakes to breathtaking cakes for every special occasion.

Included in Baking with the Cake Boss are recipes for Napoleons, Pumpkin Pie, Snowflake Winter Wonderland Cake, Seven-Layer Cookies, Chocolate Brownie Clusters, Red Velvet Cake and many others.

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Reimagining chicken pot pie

Take classic dish from dinner table to party platter

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Makes 45 appetizers.

It's chicken pot pie, only smaller, easier, faster and more party-friendly.

If you like, these miniature pot pies can be topped with a layer of puff pastry.

To prepare the tops, thaw a sheet of prepared frozen puff pastry according to package directions. Use a 2.5-cm (1-inch) round cookie cutter to cut circles, then bake them on a baking sheet in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 15 minutes. Set one baked round over each fully baked pot pie.

Ingredients:

- 3 pkgs (each pkg contains 15 cups) frozen phyllo cups
- 1 pkg (250 g/8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 2 egg whites
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) paprika
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) pepper
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) petite peas
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 500 ml (2 cups) finely chopped cooked chicken
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) grated Parmesan cheese

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Arrange phyllo cups over rimmed baking sheet.
2. In bowl, whisk cream cheese, egg whites, thyme, paprika, salt and pepper. Add peas, carrot and chicken, mixing well. Spoon about 5 ml (1 tsp) of the filling into each cup, then sprinkle with Parmesan. Bake for 15 minutes. Serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Drink and be merry

Mocktails are a tasty alternative to alcoholic drinks

Drinks are as much a part of the holidays as food.

When entertaining a large group, do some research and choose one signature alcoholic cocktail to serve at your parties, as well as a mocktail for guests who prefer not to drink alcohol.

To do this, use sparkling water and juices to give mocktails that bubbly appeal.

Royal Sparkling Apple

Look for real apple juice or cider for a crisp apple flavour.

Preparation:

1. Pour cold apple juice in a champagne flute then top it with water.

Magic Bubble Candy Floss

Look for candy floss in boxes or bags in candy or bulk stores.

Preparation:

1. Put candy floss directly in serving glass. Present to guest and let him or her pour water into glass. Watch as candy floss melts, turns pink and flavour spreads through bubbles. **BOTH MOCKTAILS: SOCIETEPERRIER.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Shopping List:

Royal Sparkling Apple
- 1.5 oz apple juice, chilled
- 3.5 oz cold carbonated water
- Thin slice of fresh apple

Magic Bubble Candy Floss
- Enough candy floss to fill a 12 oz serving glass (strawberry suits this cocktail best)
- 11 oz sparkling mineral water

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▶ Royal Sparkling Apple

▶ Magic Bubble Candy Floss

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Pronger done for season

The Philadelphia Flyers say captain Chris Pronger will miss the rest of the season with "severe post-concussion syndrome."

The decision was made after the 37-year-old was examined in Pittsburgh by doctors John Maroon and Mickey Collins, who also treated Penguins star Sidney Crosby.

"Chris will continue to receive treatments and therapy with the hope that he can get better," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said in a release Thursday.

Pronger has missed the Flyers' last 11 games since coming down with what the team first described as a virus and later changed to post-concussion symptoms.

The bruising defenceman also took a stick in the eye from Toronto's Mikhail Grabovski in late October that resulted in facial trauma and caused him to miss six games.

Pronger has one goal and 11 assists in 13 games this season.

The Dryden, Ont., native, who won gold medals with Canada at the 2002 and 2010 Olympics, signed a seven-year contract with the Flyers in 2009.

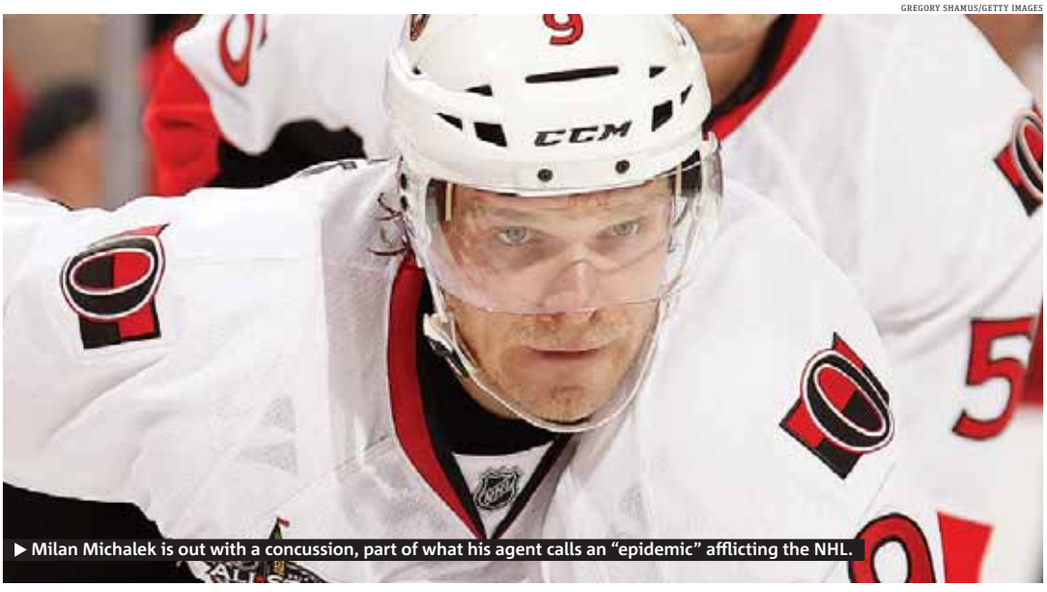
He also won the Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chris Pronger

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Milan Michalek is out with a concussion, part of what his agent calls an "epidemic" afflicting the NHL.

Call for action on concussion issue

Hockey agent urges NHL, teams to do something about 'epidemic'

The rhetoric around concussions in the NHL is on the rise along with the number of high-profile players suffering from one.

Agent Allan Walsh of Octagon Sports, who represents concussed league goal-scoring leader Milan Michalek, believes the issue has become an "epidemic" and called on the league to do more to address it.

"Clearly, the NHL is in the throes of a concussion epidemic," Walsh said Thursday. "Only time will tell how severe the long-term health ramifications will be for concussed NHL players. With the economic incentive to make NHL hockey more exciting, the league worked diligently to increase the speed of the game. With increased speed necessarily comes increased collision.

"The results as it relates to player safety are self-evident."

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly scoffed at that suggestion.

"For people to suggest that the last seven to 10 days and the experience we've had and some of the names that are out should somehow materially alter our approach to this issue is ridiculous," he said.

The spotlight returned to hockey's hot-button issue on Monday when Sidney Crosby announced that he'd suffered a setback in his return to action and got even more intense with a string of similar diagnoses in the days that followed.

Michalek was injured Tuesday night after colliding with a teammate, joining the NHL's leading scorer (Claude Giroux) and its reigning rookie of the year (Jeff Skinner).

Other stars like Mike Richards, Kris Letang and Marc Staal are also on the sidelines. In all, players earning more than $50 million combined this season are currently out with head injuries.

However, the number of total concussions through the same period last season is actually down, according to Daly.

"We've probably had periods of time where we've had as many concussions, but they weren't ... as high-profile players," he said. "The last thing anybody wants to do is overreact to a very short snapshot in time." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supporter

At least one NHL general manager agrees with Allan Walsh, telling The Canadian Press privately this week he believes measures need to be taken to slow the game down.

▶ That would likely involve reversing some of the once-celebrated changes that came out of the 2004-05 lockout — such as removing the trapezoid behind the goal or reinstating the red-line for two-line passes. It could also include expanding the rink size.

4 sports

Senators preview

Pittsburgh at Ottawa
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
TV: SNET

The Senators (14-14-4) host Pittsburgh (17-10-4), a team trying to adjust to life without Sidney Crosby once again. Crosby's concussion symptoms returned after he was knocked around in a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5, and the Penguins have lost two of three since then. Crosby joins Kris Letang, Zbynek Michalek and Robert Bortuzzo on Pittsburgh's concussion list. Ottawa has its own concussion problems, with league-leading goal scorer Milan Michalek out since Tuesday's 3-2 overtime victory in Buffalo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	29	19	7	2	1	106	82	41	8-4-1-1	11-3-1-0	8-2-0-0	W6
d-Boston	30	20	9	0	1	102	61	41	11-6-0-1	9-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Florida	31	16	9	2	4	84	80	38	6-2-1-4	10-7-1-0	4-3-2-1	L3
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	31	17	10	2	2	95	79	38	8-3-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	16	11	2	1	93	95	35	7-4-2-1	9-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
New Jersey	30	16	13	0	1	79	86	33	6-5-0-1	10-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Buffalo	30	15	12	2	1	81	82	33	7-9-2-1	8-3-0-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Montreal	31	13	11	2	5	79	80	33	5-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	4-2-1-3	W2
Winnipeg	30	14	12	3	1	84	93	32	10-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	W1
Ottawa	32	14	14	2	2	96	112	32	7-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	L1
Washington	29	15	13	0	1	89	94	31	10-5-0-1	5-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	30	12	16	0	2	79	101	26	7-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	28	9	13	4	2	65	93	24	6-7-3-0	3-6-1-2	4-3-2-1	L3
Carolina	32	9	18	3	2	80	110	23	5-9-0-2	4-9-3-0	1-7-1-1	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	32	20	8	2	2	83	70	44	10-4-1-1	10-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	L2
d-Chicago	31	19	8	1	3	103	95	42	9-2-0-3	10-6-1-0	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Dallas	29	17	11	0	1	74	78	35	9-4-0-1	8-7-0-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Detroit	29	19	9	1	0	93	63	39	12-2-1-0	7-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W3
Vancouver	30	18	10	0	2	98	73	38	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-1	8-1-0-1	L1
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Nashville	30	15	11	3	1	79	80	34	6-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	5-5-0-0	W3
San Jose	28	15	10	2	1	78	68	33	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	3-5-1-1	L3
Phoenix	30	15	12	1	2	78	80	33	6-6-1-1	9-6-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	30	14	14	1	1	74	82	30	8-5-1-1	6-9-0-0	6-3-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	30	13	13	2	2	65	70	30	8-9-0-1	5-4-2-1	3-6-1-0	L5
Colorado	31	14	16	1	0	82	94	29	8-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Anaheim	30	9	16	2	3	71	96	23	7-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	3-6-1-0	W1
Columbus	30	9	17	1	3	73	100	22	6-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	4-4-1-1	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders
Vancouver at Carolina
Los Angeles at Columbus
Philadelphia at Montreal
Calgary at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis
Detroit at Nashville
Washington at Winnipeg
Edmonton at Phoenix
Colorado at San Jose
Wednesday's results
Boston 5 Ottawa 2
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 1
Chicago 4 Minnesota 3 (SO)
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Boston at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Columbus, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Sunday's games
Carolina at Florida, 5 p.m.
Calgary at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Columbus at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

LATE WEDNESDAY

DUCKS 4, COYOTES 1

First Period
1. Anaheim, Pelley 1 (Macenauer, Visnovsky) 15:48
Penalties—Aucoin Phx (tripping) 5:58, Doan Phx (hooking) 12:00, Aucoin Phx (tripping) 19:34.
Second Period
2. Anaheim, Hagman 3 (Perry, Selanne) 1:07 (pp)
3. Phoenix, Hanzal 5 (Whitney, Yandle) 7:31 (pp)
4. Anaheim, Hagman 4 (Perry, Getzlaf) 18:56
Penalties—Sbisa Ana (boarding) 6:34, Palmieri Ana (holding) 10:10.
Third Period
5. Anaheim, Palmieri 1 (Ryan, Beauchemin) 3:30
Penalties—Ekman-Larsson Phx (interference) 1:26, McMillan Ana (tripping) 13:38.
Shots on goal

Phoenix	7	7	6	—20
Anaheim	13	7	8	—28

Goal — Phoenix: Smith (L,13-9-1); Anaheim: Hiller (W,8-12-5).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Phoenix: 1-3; Anaheim 1-4.
Referees — Gord Dwyer, Steve Kozari. **Linesmen** — Derek Amell, Scott Cherrey.
Attendance — 13,428 (17,174) at Anaheim, Calif.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
Toews, Chi	18	16	34
Lupul, Tor	13	21	34
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Versteeg, Fla	15	18	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Sharp, Chi	16	16	32
Ma.Hossa, Chi	13	19	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Pominville, Buf	10	22	32
Spezza, Ott	10	22	32
Backstrom, Wash	11	20	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Weiss, Fla	11	20	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Datsyuk, Det	9	21	30
Selanne, Ana	9	21	30
Neal, Pgh	17	12	29
Franzen, Det	14	15	29
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Malkin, Pgh	11	18	29
Kopitar, LA	10	18	28
M.Koivu, Minn	8	20	29
Hartnell, Pha	15	12	27
Seguin, Bos	13	13	26
Perry, Ana	12	14	26
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
Ra.Whitney, Phx	10	16	26
Karlsson, Ott	2	24	26
Michalek, Ott	19	6	25
Gaborik, NYR	15	10	25
Vrbata, Phx	14	11	25
B.Richards, NYR	11	14	25
Elias, NJ	10	15	25
Filppula, Det	10	15	25
Jagr, Pha	10	15	25
Plekanec, Mtl	6	19	25
E.Kane, Wpg	15	9	24
Skinner, Car	12	12	24
Tavares, NYI	10	14	24
Briere, Pha	9	15	24
Benn, Dal	7	17	24
J.Thornton, SJ	5	19	24
Parenteau, NYI	4	20	24
B.Campbell, Fla	2	22	24
Moulson, NYI	15	8	23
Lucic, Bos	10	13	23
Parise, NJ	10	13	23
C.Smith, Nash	8	15	23
Henrique, NJ	7	16	23
Prospal, Clb	7	16	23
P.Bergeron, Bos	6	17	23
Getzlaf, Ana	6	17	23
Pavelski, SJ	12	10	22
Marchand, Bos	11	11	22
Pacioretty, Mtl	11	11	22
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Dupuis, Pgh	9	13	22
St. Louis, TB	9	13	22
O'Reilly, Col	6	16	22
M.Bergeron, TB	3	19	22
Callahan, NYR	12	9	21
E.Cole, Mtl	11	10	21
Couture, SJ	11	10	21
Duchene, Col	11	10	21
Iginla, Cal	11	10	21
Lecavalier, TB	11	10	21
Marleau, SJ	11	10	21
Heatley, Minn	9	12	21
Kovalchuk, NJ	9	12	21
Nash, Clb	9	12	21
Ovechkin, Wash	9	12	21
O.Jokinen, Cal	8	13	21
Kesler, Vcr	7	14	21
Byfuglien, Wpg	6	15	21

Last night's games not included

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
WEEK 15
Last night's result
Jacksonville at Atlanta
Tomorrow's game
All times Eastern
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
New Orleans at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

THAILAND CHAMPIONSHIP

At Bangkok
Par 72
First Round

Lee Westwood, England	29-31—60
John Daly, United States	34-31—65
Gregory Bourdy, France	34-34—68
Thaworn Wiratchant, Thailand	34-34—68
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa	36-33—69
Michael Thompson, United States	34-35—69
Jbe Kruger, South Africa	36-33—69
Chris Rodgers, England	33-36—69
Antonio Lascuna, Philippines	35-34—69
Kwanchai Tannin, Thailand	36-33—69
Adam Groom, Australia	34-35—69
Scott Hend, Australia	36-33—69
Kodai Ichihara, Japan	34-35—69
Simon Dyson, England	35-34—69
Lu Chien-soon, Taiwan	36-33—69
Thongchai Jaidee, Thailand	33-37—70
Tommy Fleetwood, England	35-35—70
Panuwat Muenlek, Thailand	36-34—70
Ryo Ishikawa, Japan	34-36—70
Gaganjeet Bhullar, India	32-38—70
Tim Stewart, Australia	35-35—70
Lam Zhiqun, Singapore	37-33—70
Lee Sung, South Korea	36-34—70
Baek Seuk-hyun, South Korea	36-34—70
Miles Tunnicliff, England	36-34—70
Wang Ter-chang, Taiwan	36-34—70

DUBAI LADIES MASTERS

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Par 72
Second Round

Alexis Thompson, United States	70-66—136
Margherita Rigon, Italy	70-68—138
Sophie Gustafson, Sweden	71-67—138
Julieta Granada, Paraguay	68-71—139
Becky Morgan, Wales	70-69—139
Louise Larsson, Sweden	71-69—140
Michelle Wie, United States	73-67—140
Pernilla Lindberg, Sweden	72-68—140
Lotta Wahlin, Sweden	66-74—140
Elisabeth Esterl, Germany	70-71—141
Linda Wessberg, Sweden	68-73—141
Stacy Lee Bregman, South Africa	68-73—141
Minea Blomqvist, Finland	68-73—141
Beth Allen, United States	69-72—141
Lee-Anne Pace, South Africa	69-72—141
Christel Boeljon, Netherlands	69-72—141
Sara Brown, United States	71-71—142
Diana Luna, Italy	69-73—142

SOCCER

EUROPA LEAGUE

Yesterday's results
(Home teams listed first)
Group A
PAOK Thessaloniki (Gre.) 1 Rubin Kazan (Rus.) 1
Shamrock Rovers (Ire.) 0 Tottenham (Eng.) 4
Group B
Hannover (Germ.) 3 Vorskla Poltava (Ukr.) 1
FC Copenhagen (Den.) 0 Standard Liege (Belg.) 1
Group C
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr.) 2 Legia Warsaw (Pol.) 0
PSV Eindhovn (Neth.) 2 Rapid Buchrst (Rom.) 1
Group G
AZ Alkmaar (Neth.) 1 Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr.) 1
Austria Vienna (Austria) 2 Malmo (Swe.) 0
Group H
FC Brugges (Belgium) 1 Braga (Portugal) 1
Birmingham City (Eng.) 1 Maribor (Sloven.) 0
Group I
Udinese (Italy) 1 Celtic (Scotland) 1
Atletico Madrid (Spain) 3 Rennes (France) 1

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Derek Falvey director of baseball operations (player personnel & acquisitions) & David Stearns director of baseball operations (contracts, strategy & analysis).
MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with OF Josh Willingham on a three-year contract.
TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Fabio Castillo & C Chris Robinson on minor league contracts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
HOUSTON ASTROS—Released OF-1B Nick Stavinoa from his minor league contract.
NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with LHP Chuck James on a minor league contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with LHP Dontrelle Willis on a 1-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with LHP J.C. Romero on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA
CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Signed G Reggie Williams to a two-year contract.
DALLAS MAVERICKS—Waived G Andy Rautins.
DENVER NUGGETS—Signed F Michael Ruffin.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Signed F Dominic McGuire.
MIAMI HEAT—Signed F Billy White.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Signed F Jon Leuer.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed G Malcolm Lee to a 3-yr contract & G Bonzi Wells.
NEW JERSEY NETS—Signed F Ime Udoka.

FOOTBALL

NFL
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Placed S LaRon Landry on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL
LEAGUE OFFICE—Fined Boston D Adam McQuaid $2,500 for kneeing Ottawa F Nick Foligno in a Dec. 4 game.
BUFFALO SABRES—Signed F Kevin Sundher to a three-year contract.
DETROIT RED WINGS—Recalled LW Tomas Tatar from Grand Rapids (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Sent RW Nick Palmieri to Albany (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Recalled D Calvin de Haan & G Kevin Poulin from Bridgeport (AHL). Placed G Rick DiPietro on injured reserve.
PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled D Chris Summers from Portland (AHL).

AHL
BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS—Signed G Nick Niedert and D Wes Cunningham.
CONNECTICUT WHALE—Recalled F Jeff Prough from Greenville (ECHL).
PROVIDENCE BRUINS—Signed F Everett Sheen.
SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE—Recalled F Angelo Esposito from Cincinnati (ECHL). Reassigned F David Marshall to Rio Grande Valley (CHL).

SOCCER

MLS
COLUMBUS CREW—Signed G Matt Lampson to a multiyear contract.
PORTLAND TIMBERS—Signed F Jose Adolfo Valencia.

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A dark horse gets his shot

After years of being overlooked by hockey world, 19-year-old Tanner Pearson makes Canadian junior team

Tanner Pearson agrees with the labels late-bloomer, sleeper, dark horse and unknown quantity.

The 19-year-old from Kitchener was ignored in the NHL draft in June. He received no invitations in the summer to an NHL rookie camp.

The Barrie Colts took Pearson in the second-last round (267th overall) of the Ontario Hockey League draft when he was 16.

Pearson never played on a Canadian under-18 team or for Ontario in the world under-17 challenge. He wasn't invited to the Canadian junior hockey team's summer camp in August.

So the left-winger has basically made the Canadian junior team as a walk-on.

"If someone would have told me at the beginning of the year I would play for Canada at the world juniors I would have shook my head and laughed," Pearson said Thursday after Canada's first practice as a team at Calgary's Canada Olympic Park.

"If you want to call me a late bloomer, go for it. The truth is, I kind of was. ... It probably wasn't until the past year and a half where I started to click and play what I knew I could play."

The 22 players are heading to Banff, Alta., to participate in training and team-building activities in for the next several days.

Canada opens the 2012 world junior hockey championship Dec. 26 in Edmonton against Finland.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Tanner Pearson watches from the bench at practice on Thursday.

While most players on Canada's team were heralded as can't-miss prospects from an early age, Pearson has flown under the radar until now.

"I didn't want my hockey career to end, so I just kept on trying to improve each year and it's worked out for me."
TANNER PEARSON

Pearson played Junior B hockey for the Waterloo Siskins at age 16 and 17. He credits the team manager Peter Brill, also a scout for the Barrie Colts, for getting him noticed by the OHL club.

The OHL's leading scorer with 26 goals and 40 assists in 30 games is flying under the radar no longer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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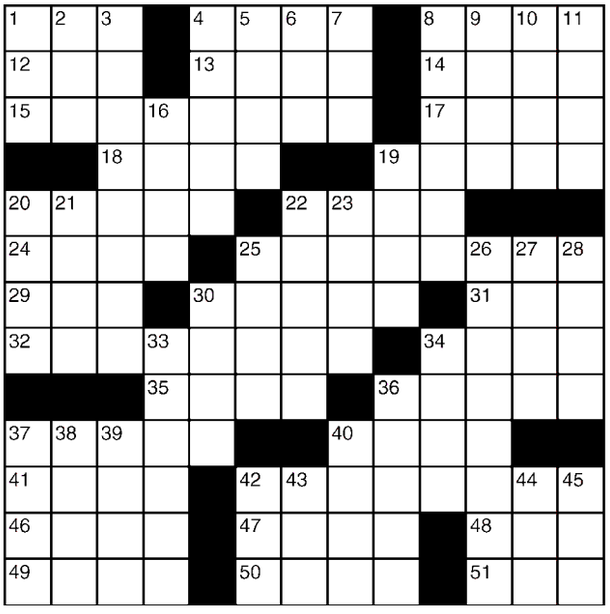
Crossword



Across
1 Humongous
4 Unfriendly
8 Took to the skies
12 Commotion
13 Eye layer
14 Emanation
15 1849 California event
17 Commotion
18 Campus digs
19 Trusty mount
20 "Yippee!"
22 Create
24 Equal
25 Shirk work
29 Mess up
30 Analogy mark
31 Have debts
32 Paris airport eponym
34 Winter transport
35 Guitars' smaller kin
36 Director Almodóvar
37 Put into words
40 Complaint
41 Stead
42 Source of wealth
46 Teensy bit
47 Vicinity
48 Junior
49 Former European capital
50 Sailing vessel
51 Day divs.

Down
1 Satchel
2 Bachelor's final utterance
3 Cohort of Behar and Hasselbeck
4 Pungent dish in Indian cuisine
5 Egg
6 "— Miserables"
7 Doo follower
8 Zip up, maybe
9 Troubadour's instrument
10 Great Lake
11 Actress Sela
16 Entryway
19 Epidermis
20 Newspaper page
21 Present
22 Shopping centers
23 Lotion additive
25 Beauty spot
26 Pepperidge Farms favorites
27 Basin accessory
28 Start over
30 Potential pickle, for short
33 Fall
34 Appear
36 Go by bicycle
37 Thick slice
38 One of The Jackson 5
39 A billion years (Var.)
40 Huffed and puffed
42 Festive
43 Man-mouse link
44 Neither mate
45 Type measures

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	T	O	P		A	N	D		F	L	A	B
P	E	R	U		L	E	I		R	A	G	E
E	A	S	T		P	E	P		O	V	E	N
C	R	O	U	C	H		L	A	Z	E		
			P	I	A	N	O	B	E	N	C	H
C	O	C	O	A		E	M	U		D	U	E
L	O	O	N		E	V	A		H	E	R	R
U	Z	I		A	X	E		A	O	R	T	A
B	E	N	C	H	P	R	E	S	S			
		C	O	A	L		S	P	A	R	S	E
A	R	I	A		O	P	S		N	O	O	N
L	I	D	S		I	R	A		N	A	R	D
P	O	E	T		T	O	Y		A	R	T	S

Sudoku

		6		1			9	
						7		
1	4	2	8	7				5
2		5	3			1		
				5				
		3			6	2		8
3				8	1	6	2	7
		8						
	5			3		4		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	2	5	9	6	4	7	8	1
8	1	9	2	7	3	4	6	5
4	7	6	8	5	1	9	2	3
7	9	3	6	1	8	5	4	2
2	8	4	3	9	5	1	7	6
6	5	1	4	2	7	8	3	9
1	6	2	7	8	9	3	5	4
5	4	7	1	3	6	2	9	8
9	3	8	5	4	2	6	1	7

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Vivu. I can't imagine my very existence w/o u. U r in my soul u r in my blood. May santa shower unstopabble happiness this X-mas on you my love .Miss u soooooooooo muchhh... **MUKNVIVIAN**

Noah, I love you so much, every single moment with you is absolutely perfet. This summer is going to be a dream come true and I can't wait to wake up next to you every day. We can do this... Even if our fridge doesn't make its own ice. I will always be yours, forever and always. **ALLIE**

The man I need to let go, Well, I finally get the message that it is over, after 6 months of no contact at all. I tried with no success, so I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and the very best of 2012. **STILL HURTING A LOT**

Today 0°/-12° Partly cloudy
Saturday -4°/-9° Mainly sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It's a good day for working your way through a pile of work, but it is not a good day for taking risks.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Someone will come to you for advice today. Make sure he or she knows you can only help so much.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone you trust will let you down today but it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A great weight is about to be lifted from your shoulders and once it has, you'll feel lighter than air.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Career issues and money matters could be a bit tense over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 All experience is good experience and a bad experience will teach you some important life lessons.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you throw yourself at the first challenge that comes along today, you'll be short of energy for a bigger challenge that is coming up.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You have talent to reach the top, but whether you have motivation will become clear in the next few days.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The Sun remains in your sign until the 22nd. Between now and then, you must go all out to better yourself in every possible way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you believe you have been hard done by, suffer in silence, for now.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Loved ones and work colleagues will make demands today. Don't do so much that you exhaust yourself.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Like it or not, today you'll have to deal with someone for whom you have a distaste. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

KERSTIN JOENSSON, FILE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS O'MEARA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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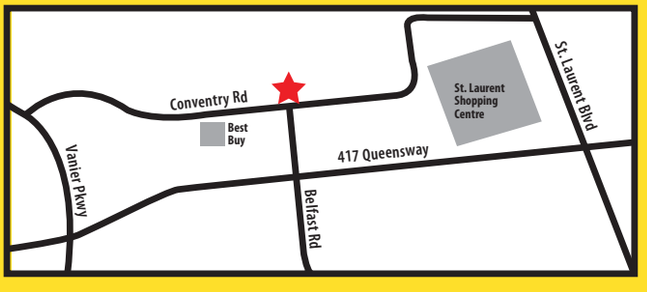

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